Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 21 | TUESDAY JANUARY 26, 2010 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you favor a proposal to increase business license fees as a means to boost government revenue?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Directory
The complete 17th Commonwealth Legislature Directory.
LOCAL...Page 13

Plane Crash
An Ethiopian plane crashes into the Mediterranean just minutes after takeoff.
WORLD...Page 16

Top Ranked
Celine Dion tops the ultimate edition of our annual Ultimate Top 10 list.
LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

> It's an accident waiting to happen. That pier is a disaster. The question is not whether it will collapse, but when.
>
> —Tony B. Cabrera, Herman B. Cabrera & Associates

3 MONTHS AFTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION

$524K contract out for Tinian pier

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The government issued Herman B. Cabrera & Associates a Jan. 7 notice to proceed with the Tinian finger pier project at the Tinian dock, three months after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial declared a state of emergency for the island on Oct. 13, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

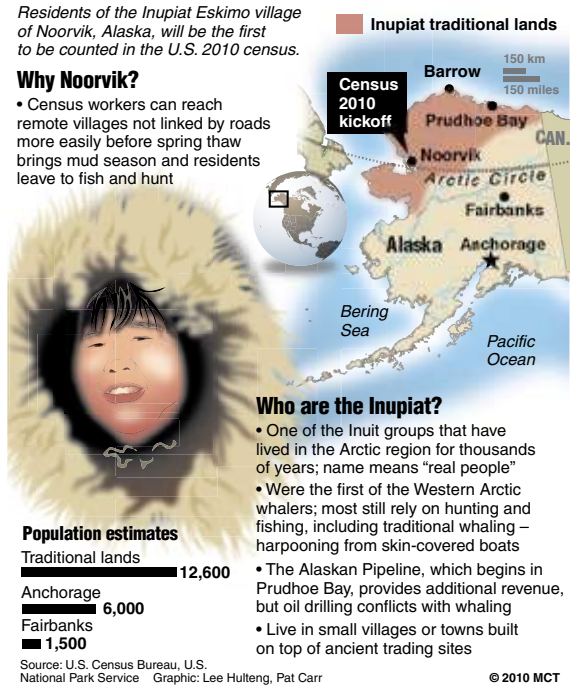
See $524K on Page 4

Alaskan Natives count

Residents of the Inupiat Eskimo village of Noorvik, Alaska, will be the first to be counted in the U.S. 2010 census.

Why Noorvik?

• Census workers can reach remote villages not linked by roads more easily before spring thaw brings mud season and residents leave to fish and hunt



Who are the Inupiat?

• One of the Inuit groups that have lived in the Arctic region for thousands of years; name means "real people"

• Were the first of the Western Arctic whalers; most still rely on hunting and fishing, including traditional whaling – harpooning from skin-covered boats

• The Alaskan Pipeline, which begins in Prudhoe Bay, provides additional revenue, but oil drilling conflicts with whaling

• Live in small villages or towns built on top of ancient trading sites

Population estimates

Traditional lands 12,600
Anchorage 6,000
Fairbanks 1,500

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. National Park Service Graphic: Lee Hulteng, Pat Carr © 2010 MCT

PORT TO PATH HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Eduardo Dalogdog, 31, a ground maintenance employee at Tropical Gardens, walks past the red Acalypha plants along Middle Road leading to the Port of Saipan yesterday afternoon. The Port to Path landscaping and maintenance is one of the Saipan beautification projects funded by the Tournament of Champions whose main sponsors are DFS Saipan Ltd., Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort, and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Count starts with No. 1 in Alaska

By HAYA EL NASSER
USA TODAY

United States Census 2010

When World War II veteran Clifton Jackson—at 88 the oldest resident of Noorvik, Alaska—answers his door at 1 p.m. local time Monday, he will become the first American counted in the 2010 Census.

The painstakingly choreographed event will unfold in

See COUNT STARTS on Page 4

Fitial nixes bill limiting gov's emergency powers

Says it is 'unnecessary, unduly burdensome'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed Friday a bill that seeks to limit the governor's power in making emergency declarations, saying the stricter reporting require-

See FITIAL on Page 4

CPA still losing money with new parking system

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Contrary to earlier hopes and projections, the new parking system for both the Saipan airport and seaport is not generating any additional revenue for the Commonwealth Ports Authority and, in fact, continues to

See CPA on Page 4

5 more in human smuggling case plead guilty. **PAGE 3**
Flight school being proposed at Saipan airport. **PAGE 6**

IT&E
Life in Motion
Prepaid Specials
Available at all Shell Stations
Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net
Pay Your IT&E Bill at Shell and get entered to win Awesome Prizes every month!
SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS
*Terms and conditions apply

JEWELRY AUCTION

Seized Assets from Police Departments, IRS, U.S. Treasury & Narcotic Dealers

And others in violation of laws. Items bought from seized assets auctions will go up for bid with other merchandise which includes the majority of items.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Certified solitaire diamonds from 1 to 7 carats. Many diamond stud earrings. A huge selection of TANZANITE jewelry from 1- to 13 carats. Rolex watches. Large selection of topaz, aquamarine, tourmaline & opal jewelry. 51 carat diamond & ruby necklace. Swiss made gold watches. ESTATE jewelry, Bracelets, bandfles, earrings, necklaces, rings, etc....

HUNDREDS OF PIECES TO CHOOSE FROM

ONE DAY ONLY!

100's of ITEMS

FREE ADMISSION

Saipan World Resort, Beach Road, Susupe
234-5900

TOTAL VALUE: $2 Million

TERMS: Cash, Check, Visa, Mastercard, AMEX. Auction not affiliated with any government agency or entity. 15% buyers premium plus sales tax will be added to hammer price. All items subject to error, omissions and withdrawal.

Roberto Galleries ~ State of Washington Auctioneer License #2506

Sunday, January 31st
Auction: 12 Noon • Preview: 11am

INVITATION FOR BID

The United States Department of Agriculture/ Natural Resources Conservation Service will be accepting bids for Waterway A, B & C construction work for the Kagman Watershed project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Performance time is 760 days after the receipt of Notice to Proceed. A pre-bid meeting/site showing will be held at **10:00 am (Saipan Time) Friday January 29, 2010** at the Santa Soledad Church, Cha-cha Rd., Kagman. Submitted bids must be received before **2:00 pm (Hawaii Standard Time) Friday February 19, 2010** at: USDA Natural Recourses Conservation Service, P.O. Box 50004, Honolulu, HI 96859-0050. The full bid package and all other information may only be obtained and downloaded at the following website after **January 21, 2010.** (Hawaii Standard Time)

https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=main&mode=list&tab=list

(Search with solicitation number: AG-9251-S-10-0001, select packages tab to view full bid package.)

(NO HARDCOPIES WILL BE HANDED OUT):

This project is funded by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009.

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER

Saipan Tribune, the CNMI's first daily newspaper, is looking for a full-time news reporter to join our team.

Qualifications:

- College graduate (bachelor's or associate's degree)
- Must have above average writing skills, with strong grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- Curious and must have a passion for news;
- Methodical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- This is a full-time job. Must be able to work on holidays, weekends, late nights, and on short notice;
- Computer literate

If you think you have what it takes to be part of this dynamic team, e-mail your most recent résumé and portfolio to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center on Beach Road, Garapan. On-island hires preferred.

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Saipan Tribune is an equal employment opportunity employer.

Local

Group wants Fund to probe $1M disbursed death claims

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Retirees Association wants the NMI Retirement Fund to review the contract between the agency and a former insurance carrier and about $1 million in death claims disbursed to beneficiaries.

Association chair Juan M. Sablan urged Fund board of trustees chair Sixto Igisomar to look into the issue as it continues to bother the retirees' group.

"We understand that the Fund has been paying the beneficiaries for those retirees who passed away after Moylan Insurance terminated its life insurance policies with the Fund. We also understand that about $1 million have been already disbursed from the Fund's money to pay these beneficiaries. …Please have your counsel review the contract between the Fund and the insurance carrier," Sablan told Igisomar in his letter dated Jan. 20.

Moylan Insurance terminated its contract with the Fund on Dec. 15, 2009, due to some unresolved contract dispute.

Sablan said the retirees want to know if Moylan could terminate insurance policies before the expiration of its agreement with the Fund.

"Is there any provision in the contract that the Retirement Fund have to first secure another insurance carrier before Moylan terminates its contract with the agency?" he asked.

Sablan also wants to know if the Fund was given ample time by the insurance carrier to get a replacement for its services.

"Please seriously look into this matter because it continues to drain the resources of the Retirement Fund. We hope that the board of trustees will incorporate provisions on future agreement with insurance carriers that will protect the Fund and its members," Sablan told Igisomar.

The Fund board is expected to address CRA's concerns during a meeting scheduled for Thursday.

Early this month, the Fund named Individual Assurance Company as its new life insurance carrier. The contract has been awarded to the new carrier, even as rates were being finalized last week.

Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon earlier described the IAC bid as "competitive and lower" compared to Moylan's, which had also submitted a bid.

Tourism Tuesday
A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.
Tinian: A Treasure Trove of Beaches
Tinian is home to the largest standing ancient Chamorro latte stones and the only casino gaming in the Northern Marianas. A leisure drive around this green island proves that Tinian is also home to some of the islands' best unspoiled beaches!
Chulu Beach is located on Tinian's northwest shore. It is a World War II landing site for U.S. forces during the Battle for Tinian. This secluded, pristine white sand beach is perfect for swim and picnic. It is also known as the "star beach" to locals because of the star-shaped sand particles that can be found among the regular sand particles.
History is never far away on Tinian, especially at Unai Dangkulo, where petroglyphs are carved in rocks embedded in the sand. The most accessible beaches include Kammar Beach in the village of San Jose. Here is where the giant limestone latte pillars and capstones erected by ancient Chamorros stand guard, ready for up-close exploration and picture taking.
Tachogna Beach graces the road between Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino and the World War II historic Tinian Suicide Cliff site. Tachogna Beach is home to the annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival each February featuring hermit crabs races, canoe races, and more fun in the sand and sun.
Tinian – and its beaches – is only a ferry ride or quick commuter flight away.
HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY
MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Total NMC workforce: 182; vacancies: 23

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For Spring 2010, the Northern Marianas College has a total 182 employees, with 76 individuals comprising the faculty and 106 working as college staffers.

Figures obtained by *Saipan Tribune* showed that there are currently 33 instructional faculty handling various courses and programs at the As Terlaje campus. All of them have 10-month contracts with the college.

The rest of the faculty, 43 individuals, are considered non-instructional because they work as counselors, librarians and other positions in direct relation to student services. All have 12-month contracts with the college.

Of the 106 non-instructional and non-faculty personnel, 10 work in upper-management positions while 96 are classified as support staff.

NMC indicated that more people will be added to the college workforce once all vacancies are filled within the semester. The college's Web site showed 23 vacancies as of yesterday, including accountant, administrative managers for both Nursing and Business departments, dean of School of Education, chairperson for Nursing, director for Office of Admission and Records, and directors for the School of Education, Student Support Services, U.S. Apprenticeship Program, and Library Programs and Services. Five program managers are also needed as well as an instructor for the Social Sciences Department.

NMC also announced a vacancy for a special assistant to the NMC president.

The Spring semester recorded a total of 987 enrollees, a 17-percent increase compared to Spring 2008's 847 enrollees.

Faculty overload

Although he welcomes the enrollment boost this semester, NMC Senate Faculty honorary president Larry Lee admitted yesterday that he remains concerned about the lack of department chairs for the Nursing, Elementary Education, Science and Mathematics departments.

NMC must have six chairpersons and three deans for all six academic programs. At present, only two are serving as department heads in permanent capacities—Frank Sobolewski for Social Sciences and Fine Arts and newly hired James Thomas Kline for Languages and Humanities.

Lee also pointed out that, in order to accommodate all 987 enrollees, the college still needs three to four more instructors. He said many instructors are still dealing with "overload" credits.

Lee believes that passing the work of department chairs to instructors affect their performance because they have to perform two jobs simultaneously. He expressed hope that all department chair positions will be filled within the semester.

Lee also backed interim NMC president Lorraine Cabrera on the issue of not bringing back former employees who have grievances filed against them by students.

However, he emphasized that, for those instructors whose contracts were not renewed merely at the behest of suspended NMC president Carmen Fernandez, they should be considered for reinstatement.

Saipan Tribune confirmed yesterday the re-employment of former department chair Mark Haag as an adjunct instructor for development English. Haag, who was among those who filed grievances against Fernandez, was let go from the college last year.

5 more defendants in human smuggling case plead guilty

Five more Chinese nationals involved in a human smuggling case filed in federal court entered a plea bargain with the U.S. government yesterday.

Jian Bo Yang, Lei Xu, Yin Bin Zheng, Bo Zhou, and Wenjun Huo, through their respective counsels, signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government, represented by assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler.

The defendants are expected to appear for a change of plea hearing tomorrow, Wednesday, at 3:30pm before U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman.

Under the plea agreements, Yang, Xu, Zheng, Zhou, and Huo are going to plead guilty to one count of attempted improper entry by an alien.

The offense carries maximum penalties of six months in prison and a $5,000 maximum fine. The U.S. agreement is expected to recommend a one-year probation sentence for each defendant.

The five were among 24 Chinese nationals that boarded a boat on Saipan on Jan. 5, 2010, to carry out their plan to unlawfully enter Guam. They were arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

Last week four of the defendants pleaded guilty to attempted improper entry by an alien and were subsequently sentenced to one year probation. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Glushko's Academy
Enrollment 2010
Ballet classes for all ages from 3 year old-up
Jazz classes for 7-18 year old
Dance Aerobic & Fitness for Adults
Call: 483-6271 • glushkosacademy@yahoo.com

IMMIGRATION LAW
Bruce L. Mailman
Maya B. Kara
FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION
Available services include
• U.S. Permanent Residence (Green Card)
• U.S. Naturalization/Citizenship
• Employment Based U.S. Visas (H1B, H2B, L1, EB1, E1, E2, and others)
• Status Clarification
Call for Appointment
(670) 233-0081
Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl. Derence Jack R., Garapan, Saipan

PREPAID SPECIALS
Available at all Shell Stations
LG AX145
$39.95*
NEW LOW PRICE!
Flip Phone
Speaker Phone
With $10 cell card
Nokia 3200
$59.95*
GSM Tri Band
Camera
FREE Prepaid SIM Card & $10 load
Motorola EM30 ROKR
$115.00*
GSM Quad Band
Camera Phone
SD Slot
FREE Prepaid SIM Card & $10 load
FREE! SIM CARD with Every GSM Phone Purchase
PREPAID WIRELESS CARD IT&E $20 $10 $5
Lowest Local Rate
.20¢ per minute
Pay Your IT&E Bill at Shell and get entered to win Awesome Prizes every month!
*While Supplies Last. Some Conditions Apply. Visit Any Shell Gas Station For More Information.
IT&E Life in Motion

Tebuteb: Transfer Managaha landing fees mostly to MVA

7 bills now introduced in House of Representatives

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Ramon "Ray" A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan) is proposing to transfer 80 percent of the funds collected from the Managaha landing and user fee to the Marianas Visitors Authority, 10 percent for cultural and youth projects, and the remaining 10 percent to be deposited with the Department of Public Lands.

Tebuteb's House Bill 17-2 is one of the seven bills so far in the 17th House of Representatives' agenda for its session on Thursday at 10am on Capital Hill.

Tebuteb's bill seeks to take away from Tasi Tours & Transportation Inc.—the current concessionaire for the tourist island of Managaha—the authority to expend funds to construct, maintain, upkeep and repair public facilities on Managaha.

HB 17-2 said with the pullout of Japan Airlines from the CNMI, it is imperative for the CNMI to refocus its efforts in attracting visitors.

The bill thus provides MVA with funding to be used exclusively to promote CNMI tourism.

The measure authorizes the Finance secretary to establish a Managaha Islands Landing and User Fee Trust Account" which will be taken from the $5 landing and user fee imposed on each nonresident passenger disembarking on Managaha Island by a commercial carrier.

Seven bills

Tebuteb is the same author of the first, second and third bills to be pre-filed in the 17th House of Representatives.

Tebuteb pre-filed HB 17-1, which requires the transfer of pertinent documents from the Clerk of Court's Office to the Health and Vital Statistics Office; HB 17-2, or the Managaha landing fee bill; and HB 17-3, which requires the segregation of fees collected by senatorial district and to authorize local appropriation of those fees.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) pre-filed HB 17-4, amending the Notaries Public Act, and HB 17-7, creating a Second Marianas Political Status Commission. Freshmen Reps. George N. Camacho and Eliceo D. Cabrera pre-filed HB 17-5 and HB 17-6, respectively.

COUNT STARTS

From Page 1

the tiny Inupiat Eskimo village north of the Arctic Circle.

Census Bureau Director Robert Groves will arrive in Noorvik by dogsled with state officials. He'll meet with local children and tribal leaders and watch traditional dancing, cooking and other festivities. Then he will walk the five minutes from the Aqqaluk School to Jackson's house in subzero temperatures to deliver the Census questionnaire.

"It's a real big thrill for a lot of us here in the community," Noorvik Mayor Bobby Wells says.

Why all this Census ballyhoo more than two months before the official April 1 Census date?

The state's geography, climate and demographics are so unusual that the Census Bureau must begin counting Alaskans early and in person or risk missing a big chunk of the state's population.

The Census is using targeted approaches to reflect the lifestyles and cultures of an increasingly diverse population across the nation. For the first time, for example, the Census Bureau is sending out 13 million English-Spanish questionnaires and printing the forms in six languages.

The challenges in Alaska are daunting. The largest state in the union stretches across 586,000 square miles. That's more than twice the size of Texas, the biggest state in the Lower 48. Yet Alaska has one of the nation's smallest populations at less than 700,000.

More than 260,000 live in Anchorage, the state's largest city. About 13 percent of residents are American Indian or Alaska Native, and almost half of Alaskans live in rural areas. Many live in villages so remote they are not connected to roads and receive mail through a post office box.

Mailing the Census forms to these far-off places won't work because the Census must count people where they live, not where they pick up their mail. If the questionnaires can't be delivered to a street address, Census takers bring the forms in person.

Workers would prefer to go door-to-door in balmier weather but can't wait because once the ice begins to melt, crossing rivers by sled or snowmobile is impossible. Many airports shut down because the mud is too deep for landings.

"You have to start early before the spring breakup, before the Native community starts to move to summer fishing camps," says Ingrid Zaruba, an analyst with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

The Census must overcome mistrust of government in many parts of the USA. That may be less of an issue in Alaska, where reporting to the government pays off: Every resident receives an oil dividend check from the state every year ($1,305 this year).

There is widespread recognition that participating in the Census could bring much-needed funds to poor Native villages and growing urban areas, Zaruba says. "Alaska Native people ... as much as they have this independent spirit, they do want to be counted," she says.

As young people leave because of lack of jobs and the mounting cost of living in remote villages, schools have closed and services dwindled. More than 17 percent of households in the Northwest Arctic Borough, where Noorvik is, live below the poverty level.

"If the community needs a fire truck, or training for EMTs, or they need a senior center, small communities are more aware now than ever before that the amount of (government) funds is based on the number of people in a community," Zaruba says.

The count will decide political representation, says Janie Leask, president and CEO of the First Alaskans Institute, a nonprofit policy center. Seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and state and local political districts are allocated according to Census numbers. "We could lose a seat in rural Alaska, diminishing representation in the state Legislature," she says.

CPA

From Page 1

incur losses for the agency.

In his report to the board, CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said that, despite the installation of the new parking system in August last year, CPA continues to incur significant losses in its parking booths and the trend indicates that the pattern will continue in the next fiscal years.

"We're losing money in our parking booths, especially in the commuter parking booth and we don't see that we will make money in there," Deleon Guerrero said.

CPA data showed that in Fiscal Year 2009, the agency posted $39,507 in seaport parking fee collection, a 4-percent decline compared to FY 2008's $41,120. Of this amount, CPA actually generated just $5,680 in revenue after deducting total expenses of $33,827.

In FY 2008, CPA earned $7,292 from the parking booths after deducting $33,827 expenses from the overall collection of $41,120.

Expenses include the contract payment for the parking booth system.

For FY 2010, Deleon Guerrero projects that CPA will see a 39-percent decline in seaport parking collections, from FY 2009's $39,507 to just $24,289.

Of this projected collection, CPA said $36,691 will be used to pay for the contract, which will give a negative $12,402 variance for CPA.

Saipan Tribune learned that total seaport parking collection in FY 2007 was at $38,432, a significant drop compared to FY 2006's $57,944.

3-percent increase

The picture is a bit rosier at the Saipan International Airport, where Deleon Guerrero projects parking revenue to go up by a marginal 3 percent.

From FY 2009's $63,367 total airport parking revenue, CPA projects to earn $88,238 in FY 2010. Expenses to be incurred are estimated at $69,102 which will give a total of $19,135 earnings to CPA.

Guerrero based this projection on the parking booths' first quarter earnings, $23,312, a slight increase over the $12,713 posted in the same period last fiscal year.

Deleon Guerrero reported that last fiscal year, CPA incurred losses of $5,309 from the airport parking booths when it posted $68,676 expenses against collections of $63,367.

In FY 2008, CPA collected $52,049 from the airport parking booths but paid $71,101 in total expenses.

"Based on our analysis…CPA will continue to lose money on these areas and we need to implement measures to prevent incurring continuous losses," he told the board.

For the commuter parking booths, which are exempted from the new parking fee system, CPA projects to lose $18,288 in FY 2010, Deleon Guerrero said.

For many years now, CPA has been losing over $19,000 annually from its parking system, mainly due to lax implementation of rules. Because of this, a new system was put in place on Aug. 20, 2010, which requires CPA to issue a plastic card upon entry of vehicles. This reads the elapsed time between entry and exit and indicates the appropriate charge.

FITIAL

From Page 1

ment is "unnecessary and unduly burdensome."

Fitial said he commends the Legislature for introducing House Bill 16-91, HD1, for stricter reporting requirements when a state of emergency is declared and to shorten the time of the emergency.

"However, the stricter reporting requirement is unnecessary and unduly burdensome at this time as all departments and agencies in government are currently operating with meager resources and less staff," Fitial said in a Jan. 22 message to legislative officers.

The governor also said that 60 days for a declaration is sufficient and adequate, adding that reducing the time to 30 days "does not provide any significant benefit to the community or the affected department or agency."

Since taking office in 2006, Fitial has issued several emergency declarations to take control of agencies that include the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the Department of Public Health, and the Tinian municipality.

Fitial has been extending these emergency declarations every month since their original proclamations.

The emergency declarations provided Fitial not only full control of these agencies' operations but also suspended regulations on procurements and the authority to reprogram all available funds to address the concerns.

Former House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) co-sponsored H.B. 16-191 with 15 other lawmakers in the 16th House of Representatives, mostly Republican and independent lawmakers. Many of them lost their re-election bid or did not seek re-election.

The co-authors who were re-elected in the 17th Legislature did not respond to requests for comment on Fitial's veto of their bill.

The CNMI Constitution recognizes both the governor's authority to declare a state of emergency under extraordinary circumstances such as an invasion of the Commonwealth, civil disturbance, and natural disaster, and the Legislature's lawmaking authority to define other calamities and extraordinary circumstances in which the governor may invoke his emergency authority.

Authors of the bill said the measure seeks to strike a balance between empowering the governor to exercise such extraordinary authority and the equally important objective of preventing abuse of power.

Among other things, the bill would have required Fitial to transmit to the Legislature within 14 days a report describing in detail the emergency that required the declaration, and a financial plan for meeting the cost of these measures.

The bill would have also automatically terminated the emergency declaration within 30 days, unless it's rescinded earlier, or unless the governor—prior to the end of the 30-day period—justifies its extension to the Legislature.

$524K

From Page 1

The contract amounts to $524,000, but not a penny has been paid yet to the contractor as of yesterday.

Herman B. Cabrera & Associates' sole-source contract under the emergency procurement is for the architectural and engineering design, topographic and hydrographic survey, and marine environmental impact assessment, structural inspection, among other things.

Because the preliminary assessments and surveys are still being done, there is no telling yet whether the existing finger pier at the Tinian dock needs to be repaired or totally removed and replaced with a new one.

The finger pier is just one of the components of the Tinian harbor, which is in a deteriorating condition, having been built in World War II.

Tony B. Cabrera, office administrator at Herman B. Cabrera & Associates, in responding to media queries about the project, confirmed the Jan. 7 notice to proceed, the $524,000 sole source contract, and preliminary work being done for the Tinian finger pier.

"It's an accident waiting to happen. That pier is a disaster. The question is not whether it will collapse, but when. It's time that something must be done to it for the safety of everyone," Cabrera said in a phone interview yesterday.

Cabrera, a former seaport director at the Commonwealth Ports Authority, said the weather, the tides and the wave movement in recent weeks have been delaying some preliminary work needed for the project.

He said the company has also been waiting for the concurrence of Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz to proceed with the preliminary work. "This is to show respect to the new mayor's administration," Cabrera said.

Dela Cruz could not be reached for comment. His office said he was still in a meeting as of 6:15pm last night.

Former Tinian mayor Jose P. San Nicolas signed a local declaration of emergency for Tinian in October 2009 to be able to take all necessary measures to prevent the further deterioration of the island's outer seawall and piers.

Four days later, Fitial concurred with the then mayor's emergency declaration, to allow the offices of the governor and the Tinian mayor to bring the required resources to the problems caused by the continuing deterioration of the outer seawall.

"The continued deterioration of this seawall directly impacts the Tinian harbor and we need to bring additional resources to address this issue," he had said.

In his own declaration of a state of emergency for Tinian, the former Tinian mayor said typhoons severely deteriorated the outer seawall and piers, leaving the inner dock of Tinian harbor vulnerable, with risk to the operation of ferries and other marine traffic. He said if allowed to continue, such conditions will lead to the destruction of harbor piers.

The governor earlier told Dela Cruz, who was then still a candidate for mayor, that the CNMI needs over $50 million to repair Tinian's outer seawall, but the government has yet to find the money for it.

Arguments in lawsuit vs Fitial, Fund found compelling

But judge orders stay of proceedings in Jorgensen lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex Munson finds compelling the arguments of two unnamed CNMI retirees who had sued Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the NMI Retirement Fund for alleged non-payment of their retirement benefits.

Munson, however, stayed the federal court proceedings for 60 days from yesterday.

"Such a stay will allow intervention in the Superior Court by interested parties to seek themselves—or to compel the Retirement Fund and its board of trustees to pursue—post judgment remedies in that court," said the judge in his written order.

The Maryland-based attorney Bruce Jorgensen is representing the plaintiffs, whose identities have been withheld for safety and fear of retaliation reasons.

Jorgensen wants the court to issue a declaration holding CNMI Public Law 15-15 unlawful and violative of rights and protections guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

Signed into law by Fitial in June 2006, P.L. 15-15 authorizes the suspension of CNMI payments owed the Fund during a portion of Fiscal Year 2006 and all of 2007.

In his order issued yesterday, Munson said that looking at the case in the light most favorable to the complainants, he believes that they have alleged sufficient facts to support the court's jurisdiction and to avoid defendants' motion to dismiss.

Munson said the plaintiffs made arguments in support of their decision to choose to proceed in the federal court rather than seek post-judgment remedies in the Superior Court.

The judge cited the plaintiffs' following seven arguments:

■ That they need to preserve their anonymity for fear that they will suffer retaliation at the hands of the Fund and the Fund board of trustees.

■ That there is an inherent conflict of interest between defendants "negotiating" between themselves—with apparently no significant input from the beneficiaries of the trust.

■ That the inherent conflict of interest also finds expression in the Fund—admitted to be an "arm of the state" by the Fund's counsel—"negotiating" with the "state."

■ That a significant period of time has passed with no viable plan presented to fully satisfy the judgment within a reasonable period of time.

■ That the interest on the judgment continues to spiral upward with each passing day, making it increasingly unlikely that the Commonwealth government, presently tens of millions of dollars in debt, will be able to pay the judgment.

■ That all participants in the Superior Court case—whether they be from the executive, legislative, or judicial branches—all have a significant stake, and therefore a conflict of interest in the outcome of the litigation.

■ There should no "negotiations" at all and that the Fund and the board of trustees should have immediately sought post-judgment remedies to fully, or at least significantly, satisfy the judgment and by doing so meet their extremely high fiduciary duties to the Fund beneficiaries.

Munson said that, except for the first, he finds all these arguments compelling.

However, Munson said, at least for now he believes it should abstain from further action. Citing precedent, the judge said a court may stay or dismiss a suit where another court has concurrent jurisdiction.

Munson said a limited stay of proceedings is warranted.

The judge said the Superior Court has the power—and has already indicated its willingness to consider exercising its full powers—to issue orders sufficient to enable the Fund to satisfy its judgment.

Munson said at the end of the 60-day abstention period, the federal court will re-visit its decision.

On June 29, 2009, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo ruled that the CNMI government owes the Fund $231.6 million in damages and that the law suspending government contributions to the Fund is unconstitutional.

Govendo's ruling set the stage to begin negotiations between the CNMI government and the Fund on how to pay the amounts owed.

High Court sets conference in proceedings vs Govendo

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has set a status conference in order to discuss several issues related to the disciplinary proceedings against Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo.

Justice pro tem Edward Manibusan ordered that the dates for pre-hearing conferences and scheduling of hearing dates will be tackled at the status conference tomorrow, Wednesday at 11am.

Other issues that will be entertained include the possibility of obtaining admissions of fact and documents to avoid unnecessary proof and stipulations about the authenticity of documents at the hearing, Manibusan said.

Other matters to be discussed include a request by Govendo to videotape the proceeding, and other issues appropriate to the case, he added.

Manibusan invited the parties in the case to file with the court any other matters they would like considered at the status conference.

The case arises from a November 2008 decision issued by Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona where she cited Govendo for allegedly violating the "principles of decorum and temperance." Govendo allegedly made the statements in a family law case against Roger S. Castillo.

The complaint prompted Chief Justice Miguel Demapan to appoint retired Guam Superior Court judge Richard Benson to look into Manglona's complaint. Benson later recommended formal disciplinary proceedings against Govendo for professional misconduct. The hearing was originally scheduled for Dec. 17, 2009, but the Supreme Court reset the hearing for Jan. 20, 2010. The new hearing date is Jan. 27, Wednesday.

Govendo filed on Dec. 9, 2009, a motion for a more definite statement. He claimed that Benson's recommendation of formal proceedings is too vague. The high court ruled otherwise.

Man, 55, told to answer charges of sexually abusing two minors

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry Inos has ordered a 55-year-old man to answer charges that he sexually abused two female minors.

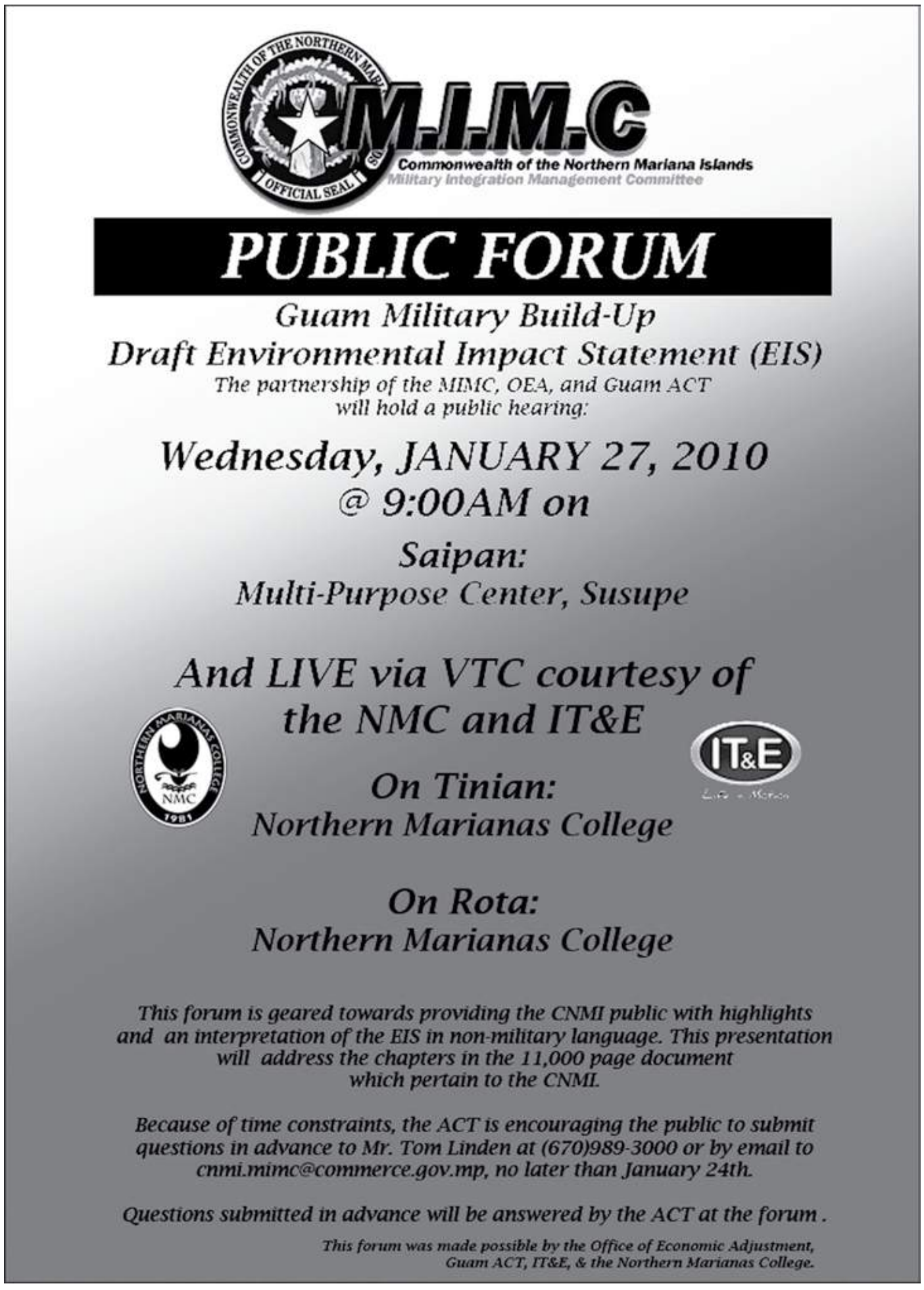
During a preliminary hearing on Friday, Inos found probable cause that Robert K. Shieneachi may have committed two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

Inos remanded the defendant back to the custody of the Department of Corrections and set the arraignment for yesterday.

Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher prosecuted the case. Assistant public defender Richard Miller served as counsel for the defendant.

According to the charging information, Shieneachi sexually abused a girl beginning 2001.

Sometime in 2008, the defendant allegedly sexually abused another girl. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***


M.I.M.C
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Military Integration Management Committee
PUBLIC FORUM
Guam Military Build-Up
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
The partnership of the MIMC, OEA, and Guam ACT
will hold a public hearing:
Wednesday, JANUARY 27, 2010
@ 9:00AM on
Saipan:
Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe
And LIVE via VTC courtesy of
the NMC and IT&E
On Tinian:
Northern Marianas College
On Rota:
Northern Marianas College
This forum is geared towards providing the CNMI public with highlights
and an interpretation of the EIS in non-military language. This presentation
will address the chapters in the 11,000 page document
which pertain to the CNMI.
Because of time constraints, the ACT is encouraging the public to submit
questions in advance to Mr. Tom Linden at (670)989-3000 or by email to
cnmi.mimc@commerce.gov.mp, no later than January 24th.
Questions submitted in advance will be answered by the ACT at the forum .
This forum was made possible by the Office of Economic Adjustment,
Guam ACT, IT&E, & the Northern Marianas College.

Flight school proposed at Saipan airport

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Japan-based company is proposing to build a flight school and training center on the island and has asked the Commonwealth Ports Authority for space at the airport, according to executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero Friday.

Deleon Guerrero told the CPA board that the company, doing business here as Island Aviation Corp., wants to lease space within CPA property for its proposed flight school, training center, and hangar. For the hangar alone, the firm wants to lease 33 x 33 meters space near the airport and additional space for the center and school.

Saipan Tribune learned that Takashi Hirata, the company's board secretary, formally approached CPA on Jan. 13 about its intention to lease space near the airport. Once they determine that the identified site is suitable for their needs, the company will submit all documents necessary to consummate the lease.

Hirata described the proposal as both beneficial to the CNMI and the company.

Deleon Guerrero told the board he was pleased with the proposal and will review and analyze various options that could be presented to the company. As soon as possible locations are identified, he said he will immediately set up a meeting with the company.

CPA, he said, looks forward to the start of a new business relationship with Island Aviation Corp.

Deleon Guerrero was instructed by board members to expedite the review process for this potential revenue stream for CPA.

Saipan Tribune learned Island Aviation Corp. acquired a business license to build a flight school in the CNMI last Dec. 14, 2009. It has until December this year to build the flight school, based on the license permit. If the project pushes through, the company will be the first to set up an aviation school on island.

Another company, Star Marianas, also plans to widen its space within the airport premises for its proposed hangar as well as a classroom for a flight school.

Deleon Guerrero reported that he met with the company's representative, Robert Christiansen, who submitted intentions to lease the property currently being used by the CPA operations department.

Deleon Guerrero said Star Marianas wants to demolish the existing dilapidated building and use the site for an office space, hangar, and classroom for a flight school.

He said CPA will identify another site for the operations department if the Star Marianas proposal is approved.

'Firm offers $350K building to CPA'

CPA was also offered a $350,000 building located on CPA property after Tandem Skydive decided to shut down due to the declining economy and tourism.

According to the firm's stockholder, Joseph C. Reyes, they decided to sell the building since they see no promising possibilities in continuing their operations.

However, Deleon Guerrero told the board that the selling price is deemed too "high" for the CPA to consider. Skydive, he revealed, has 15 more years to its lease agreement with CPA.

Deleon Guerrero said that the management will make a full review of the proposal and will present recommendations to the board at its next meeting.

He disclosed that the U.S. Division of Fish and Wildlife has already signified interest to lease the building at $9,000, including utilities.

"We will make a full assessment of this proposal to see whether it is good or not for CPA," he told the board.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC Alumni general membership meeting today

There will be a general membership meeting of all NMC alumni (those who have graduated with NMC degrees or those who have earned at least 24 NMC academic credits) at the Pacific Islands Club's Seaside Grill on Jan. 27, 2010 (Wednesday), between 5pm to 7pm. All NMC alumni are invited to attend. The NMC Alumni Association will also be electing new NMC alumni officers. Come and get re-acquainted with former classmates. Your presence is greatly appreciated! ***(PR)***

Huge rummage sale on Saturday

The families of Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center have joined together for a huge Rummage Sale that will be held on Saturday, Jan. 30, from 8am to 1pm, at the Sister Remedios School (Enter the road across Payless Supermarket in Chalan Kanoa. The school is right behind the Glory Market.)

A portion of each vendor's proceeds plus all vendor fees will go toward helping the school. Please come by and support the Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center. Don't miss out! There will be so many items to choose from. Lots of big bargains! ***(PR)***

ABE Spring 2010 registration ongoing this week

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's Adult Basic Education Program, which handles the General Education Development, the Adult High School, and the English as a Second Language programs, will be ongoing this week, from Jan. 25 to Jan. 29, 2010.

Registration on the 25th and 26th is limited to ongoing students, while new students may register on the 27th to 29th.

For more information, contact the Adult Basic Education office at 234-5498 Ext. 1723; visit their office at Building G at the college's As Terlaje campus, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(PR)***

Meeting of the Autism Society of the CNMI

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2010 at 10am at the NMPASI Conference Room. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism related spectrum disorders are invited to attend. For additional information, call John at 234-8803/4 or Larrisa at 322-3761 or send an email to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Red flag up at Managaha

The Division of Environment Quality has raised the red flag on Managaha Island after samples collected showed excessive concentrations of enterococci, fecal indicator bacteria that indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. DEQ advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. The division analyzed a total of 11samples from the shore surrounding Managaha this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

John Gonzales Live schedule

John Gonzales Live on KSPN Channel 2 will feature "*Administrators' In-Depth Perspectives on the Successes and Challenges of Public Education."* Guests will include Ignacia Tudela Demapan, Kagman Elementary principal; Ruth Bigalbal, Chacha Jr. High vice principal; and Alfred Borja Ada, Kagman High principal. Call 287-4230, Text 285.META (6382), or email johngonzales@pticom.com for your comment and/or question. ***(PR)***

H1N1 vaccinations at GES

Garapan Elementary School would like to announce that the Department of Public Health would be conducting the second round of H1N1 vaccines on Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010. Parents and legal guardians who would like their children to receive their vaccine for the first time can pick up a consent form at the Garapan Elementary School nurse's clinic from 7:30am to 4:30pm daily or call 237-3341 and have a permission form sent home with their child. Students who received the first round of vaccinations will be administered the second dose on Jan 27, 2010. ***(PR)***

Veterans' briefing today

This is to let all veteran, their dependents and all concerned know that Michael C. Brown will give a short one-hour-only briefing on Veteran's Aid and Attendance today, Jan. 26, 2010, at 10am. The briefing will be at the Office of Military/ Veterans Affairs on Capitol Hill, building 1364. For any questions or for further information, call Ruth Coleman at the office of Military/ Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW 10-IFB-006

CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE II-A
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NUMBER CM-NH-0031(014)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PAHSE II-A, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package consisting of Plans, Specifications and Bid Documents will be available **on or after January 25, 2010** at Pacific Quick Print & Post, located in Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, is required to defray the cost of printing the package.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated Ma 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and further amended by Public Law 15-118 ***is not available*** because its use is prohibited by Federal law granting the funding for this project.

A **mandatory** Pre-bid Conference is scheduled for February 11, 2010, 9:00 am, Chamorro Standard Time (CHST), at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, Gualo Rai, Saipan. After the per-bid there will be a site visit for Route 31, Phase II-A. DPW encourages prospective bidders to see the existing condition and the complexity of the proposed project.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that the full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670)234-3547.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who have obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/38 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW10-IFB-006**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), February 25, 2010. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Inten to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), February 25, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located out the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than February 25, 2010, and must be received no later than March 8, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), March 11, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), on March 02, 2010.

A bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the id. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check of Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". For Bid Bonds, surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority for the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (CNMI Department of Commerce), as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with NMIAC §70-30.3-301 of the Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority form the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is **two hundred forty (240)** working days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One thousand four hundred fifty **($1,450.00)** per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the American Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA) through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the FHWA Federal-Aid Territorial Transportation Improvement Program (TTIP). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by FHWA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

MARTIN C. SABLAN
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement&Supply

Can you identify

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the *Saipan Tribune*, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.

If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.

The persons featured in last week's photo have been identified as Juan T. San Nicolas, left, and Miguel B. Evangelista on Tinian in the early 1970s. Identified with the assistance of Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, Serafina R. King-Nabors, Kimberly King-Hinds, and Janet H. King.

FREE

H1N1 Mass Vaccination Drives will be held on:

January 26th
- Tuesday Market, Fishing Basin in Garapan

January 30th
- Cervical Cancer Health Fair, Fishing Basin in Garapan from 8:00am to 1:00pm
- Head Start Health Symposium LaoLao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman from 7:30am to 2:30pm

You can also visit any health clinic on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to get vaccinated.

The more people vaccinated, the less likely the flu will spread in the coming months.

The H1N1 vaccine is safe, effective, and your best protection against the flu this year.

Be safe, get vaccinated!

For more information, visit the Department of Public Health's H1N1 website at H1N1dph.gov.mp or email fluwatchcnmi@gmail.com

H1N1 Vaccine School Vaccination Campaign

Students and school staff who want to receive their H1N1 vaccine for the first time can also get in line!

Consent forms are availale at the school office. Turn in signed consent forms back to school before your vaccination date!

School Vaccination Schedule

January 27th – Wednesday
- Kagman Elementary School
- Garapan Elementary School
- GTC Elementary School
- Tanapag Elementary School

January 28th – Thursday
- Dandan Elementary School
- Oleai Elementary School
- San Vicente Elementary School

January 29th – Friday
- Koblerville Elementary School
- San Antonio Elementary School
- WSR Elementary School

Rota, Tinian, and Private School Schedules are being finalized

Visit any health clinic to get vaccinated.

DPH will be back at the schools to administer the 2nd dose of the H1N1 vaccine to students 9 years old and younger

The H1N1 vaccine is safe, effective, and your best protection against the flu this year.

No consent form, No Vaccine!

For more information, visit the Department of Public Health's H1N1 website at H1N1dph.gov.mp or email fluwatchcnmi@gmail.com

MIMC hosts Guam buildup forum tomorrow

The Military Integration Management Committee will be hosting a public forum tomorrow, Jan. 27, 2010, from 9am to 11am at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Sponsors Northern Marianas College and IT&E will provide a live VTC to the NMC campuses on Tinian and Rota to provide people the opportunity to ask questions in regards to the military buildup in the region.

Gary Kuwabara and Rick Solander from the Office of Economic Adjustment will be on hand. Also from the Guam Advisory Consulting Team will be Celeste Werner, vice president of Matrix Design; Gary Hrapla, vice president of Matrix Design; and Loretta Lujan of M2D2.

CONTACT INFO
MIMC coordinator
Tom Linden
E-mail: cnmi.mimc@commerce.gov.mp

The ACT has been tasked with breaking down the 11,000 page Draft Environmental Impact Statement into a more understandable and user-friendly format. They will also be willing to listen to and answer any questions that the public may have about the pending military buildup in the region. Unlike the recent JGPO public hearings which provided a lot of information on the EIS, this forum will be much more interactive and will provide more of an open dialogue to the reality of the Department of Defense plans.

The MIMC office strongly encourages everyone's participation in this event as the public comment period for the Draft EIS ends on Feb. 17, 2010. This forum will provide great insight as to the military's planned use of Tinian and other CNMI islands. The relocation of Marines from Okinawa to Guam will start in the next couple of years and estimates currently show Guam's population to increase by 35,000 people. This realignment will substantially impact the community and infrastructure on Guam as well as provide economic opportunities throughout our region.

If you are unable to attend and would like to submit questions ahead of time, e-mail them to MIMC coordinator Tom Linden at cnmi.mimc@commerce.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to Manny Kisa, a great husband, father, and friend! May this day be a special one to remember and be filled with sunshine and smile, laughter and love. Greetings come from your loving wife Maricar and kids Joseph and Joshua.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday shoutout to Ms. Vicky Borja, who is celebrating her birthday today. Wishing you good health, much happiness, and longevity. May the good Lord continue to bless you always. Greetings come from your family, friends, and students.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bon voyage and a safe return to Iraq for Karen Joy Eusebio, who left the island yesterday, and an advanced Happy Birthday greetings on the 29th. God bless you! Much love and good wishes from your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BON VOYAGE

"Bon voyage to my loving brother Sowm Daniel Olkeriil Kaipat and may the Lord bless you always in your long journey to protect freedom, liberty, and peace in the world. May the heavenly Father provide you with guidance always." With love, Jokeka Kapileo 12.

"Have a safe trip Sowm and we wish you the best in life always and forever." Love always, Mom, Dad, sister and brothers.

"Bon voyage Corporal Daniel 'Sowm' Olkeriil Kaipat and may God bless you always." From 2-0 Pagan crews

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE **BOARD OF REGENTS SPECIAL MEETING** THAT RECESSED ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2010 WILL RESUME ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2010 AT 3:30PM IN THE BOR CONFERERNCE ROOM AT THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE.

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Board of Regents

Special Board Meeting

Board of Regents Conference Room, NMC Saipan Campus
Tuesday, January 12, 2010
10:00am

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
Roll Call

II. New Business
Personnel Matter

III. Executive Session
(At any time during the scheduled meeting the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)

IV. Adjournment

/s/ Janet Han King — January 8, 2010
Chairperson, Board of Regents — Date

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • website: www.cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
January 25, 2010

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority thru its Chairman, hereby informs the general public that the CDA Board will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. The meeting will be held at the CDA Conference Room, second floor, Wakin's Building, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Saipan. The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes – November 24, 2009

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. QC PROGRAM/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES
1. World Corporation – Request for Transfer of Benefits

IV. PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT BANK (PIDB)

V. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SBDC)

VI. OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

VII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ **PEDRO I. ITIBUS**
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 26, 1999

'OIA not helping in CNMI labor reform efforts'

The chair of the House Labor and Immigration Committee has denounced the recent federal report that cited inadequacies of the Northern Marianas to implement reforms, saying a political agenda clouded a fair assessment of the island's conditions. Rep. Herman T. Palacios particularly lambasted Office of the Insular Affairs Director Allen P. Stayman over the report as he called for cooperation from the U.S. government to resolve differences straining bilateral relations. "I hope at some point you will finally tell us the truth about why this report is so negative, and give us a chance to work with the federal government to establish a mutually satisfactory resolution to the differences," he told Stayman in a letter.

DEQ shuts Aquabest

Aquabest Water Company has been ordered closed by the Division of Environmental Quality after a random testing showed that its bottled water is not safe to drink. But Aquabest said management is now carrying out corrective measures so that DEQ can give them the go signal to resume operation. "We want to assure our clients that we are doing everything to solve the problem," said Mikko Magsaysay, general manager. When Aquabest began operation in June 1998, it immediately got a big market share as it offered more affordable price for its bottled water, forcing the rival firms to lower their rates too.

Jan. 26, 2000

$.5 million funding sought for PCB medical test

The Department of Public Health will ask the Legislature to provide $500,000 to carry out the planned medical testing of residents in Tanapag in connection with the widespread contamination of polychlorinated biphenyls in the village. According to DPH Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, the amount will cover the expenses for blood and tissue sample analysis as well as payment for the medical staff who will be hired to assist in detecting diseases associated with PCB. Dr. Gershon Henoch Bergeisen from ATSDR arrived here Monday to train local medical staff who would be involved in the medical evaluation.

SGMA gets high marks from independent audit firm

Most of Saipan's garment factories have complied with strict standards implemented under a comprehensive code of conduct as part of the self-policing efforts to improve working conditions on the island, according to a report by an independent monitoring group. The PricewaterhouseCoopers auditing firm has rated high companies belonging to the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association which have implemented a set of standards under its own Code of Conduct adopted in late 1998 consistent with the expectation of the world's leading apparel brands. In a news conference held at the Office of the Governor yesterday, SGMA officials welcomed the findings which were made by PCW after monitoring of 30 garment factories on the island between Dec. 2 to 12, 1999 to assess compliance with the Code.

Jan. 26, 2001

Occupancy rate improves in 2000

Average hotel occupancy rate in 2000 was 61.23 percent, a slight increase from the 60.44 percent average occupancy record in 1999, according to the Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands. This was the first time that average hotel occupancy rate posted an increase in the last three years. In December 2000 alone, the hotel occupancy rate was 57.37 percent, a four percent decline from the 61.16 percent registered in the same period of the previous year. Unfortunately, the average room rates significantly declined with $88.06 in year 2000 from $98.98 room rates in 1999. HANMI said the rate only means that the hotels are making less money thus they have to reduce their rates to remain competitive.

JAL arrivals climb 5 percent

Japanese visitors ferried by Japan Airlines to the island climbed 5 percent in December 2000, representing more than 900 tourists, compared with figures recorded during the same month in 1999. JAL-Saipan Sales Manager Yasuyoshi Kinoshita attributed the five percent increase in visitor arrivals to calmed fears over what has been overly-publicized "millennuum bug" during the 1999-2000 transition. "Japanese tourists in December 2000 had already overcome their fears of the Y2K bug," Mr. Kinoshita said in an interview yesterday.

Census student poster contest ends this Friday

The deadline to submit entries for the 2010 CNMI Census Student Poster Contest is this Friday, Jan. 29, 2010. The contest is open to all CNMI public and private school students and cash prizes will be awarded to the winning students and their schools.

Students will be asked to design a poster that meets the following criteria:

■ Poster that describes "What the CNMI Census means to you and your community."

■ Highly encouraged to use the Theme: 2010 CNMI Census, It's in Our Hands.

■ The use of symbols and CNMI-related themes are encouraged

■ Designs can be either handdrawn or computer generated

■ Design must fit on 8.5x11 letter size paper

■ Original artwork only, no copyrighted materials and only one design per student

There will be three categories by grade level. Category 1 is Kindergarten - 6th Grade, Category 2 is 7th - 8th Grade and Category 3 is 9th – 12th Grade. Prizes will be $200 for 1st place, $100 for 2nd Place and $50 for 3rd place in each category for the student (or students if a group) and $500 for the school (for 1st place Winner only) in each Category.

Winning designs will be used by the CNMI Census to promote and highlight the 2010 Census in the CNMI through the media and Census partners. Winning posters will be used in a variety of ways for the awareness campaign, the reminder campaign and the thank you campaign.

In addition to the design, students will fill out an entry form with their name, school, grade and phone number. The entry also asks two questions. "Why is the Census important to the CNMI?" and "What does the Census theme mean to you?" All entries will be on display in the CNMI Local Census Office after the contest is concluded. Winners will be notified in mid-February.

ON THE NET
http://www.commerce.gov.mp

Entry forms are available on 2010 CNMI Census tab on the CNMI Department of Commerce Web site at http://www.commerce.gov.mp or can be picked up at the Local Census Office. Entry forms will also be sent to all CNMI schools via e-mail. Office hours are Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm, and the office is located on International Terminal Loop next to the Saipan International Airport. For more information call the Local Census Office at 288-3027/23. ***(PR)***

NMC, DCCA team up to enhance child care in NMI

NMC

Members of the NMC-DCCA Infant & Toddler Care Training Program's first cohort hold up their certificates as they pose for a photo with NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera, standing third from left, NMC dean of Community Programs & Services Tee Abraham, standing third from right, and DCCA Secretary Melvin O. Faisao, standing center.

The first cohort of three groups of caretakers from various child daycares around the island recently completed a professional development training program facilitated by the Northern Marianas College.

The Infant & Toddler Care Training Program was offered through a contract between the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs' Child Care Program and NMC's Community Development Institute, which also offers a variety of other developmental courses in a range of fields.

"I am pleased with the initiative these individuals display in their efforts to enhance their professional capacity and the overall childcare services in the CNMI," said NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera.

Individuals from the first group completed a total of 70 hours and underwent instruction in a number of topics, such as social-emotional growth and socialization, group care, learning and development, cultural and familial issues, and health and safety considerations. Participants also conducted projects involving on-site observations and orientations.

"I would like to thank the staff of DCCA and CDI for all the hard work they have put into carrying out the program," said DCCA Secretary Melvin O. Faisao. "I also encourage other agencies and individuals to look to NMC for their professional and training needs."

Training instructors included Child Care Program director Maribel Loste, NMC School of Education instructor Joylene Limes, and Hopwood Junior High School instructor Antonio Yarobwemal.

The second cohort of caretakers is scheduled to begin training on February 18, 2010. ***(NMC)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PSS RFP 10-001

"AUDIT OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM FOR FISCAL YEARS 2010, 2011 AND 2012"

The CNMI Public School System (PSS) is required by law to have an external audit every fiscal year. This audit is subject to the requirements of the Single Audit Act. The Public Auditor is ultimately responsible for the conduct of external audits pursuant to Public Law 3-91. PSS is an autonomous government agency, and its audit is independent of any audit of the CNMI government.

The Public School System and the Office of the Public Auditor are soliciting competitive sealed proposals from certified public accounting (CPA) firms to conduct single audits for fiscal years 2010, 2011, and 2012. Beginning January 12, 2010 the single audit proposal package may be obtained from the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All Proposals, an original and five copies, shall be sealed in an envelope marked "PSS RFP 09-043 Audit of the Public School System" and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office in the CNM Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 10 AM February 4, 2010. Any proposal received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Questions pertaining to this RFP may be directed to Ms. Lori A. Grizzard, Acting Director of Finance at 237.3045, or faxed to 664.3750, not later than January 29, 2010.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

/s/ Michael Pai, CPA
Public Auditor

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-10-012

The Office of the Executive Director! Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting sealed bids for the construction of **SAIPAN WELL ISOLATION PROJECT**, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A non-refundable payment of **$350.00** is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **January 11, 2010** at the Water Division Office, CUC, Saipan. A pre-bid Conference for this project is scheduled at **9:00 a.m.**, on **January 15, 2010**, at the CUC Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit is scheduled following the pre-bid meeting.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-10-012 Construction of Saipan Well Isolation Project"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building P.O . Box 501220, Saipan! MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM local time (CST), Wednesday, January 27, 2010**, at which time they will be publicly open and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A performance and payment bond of hundred (100%) percent each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety for proposal security. The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a U.S. Treasury listed company. No advance payment will be authorized on the project or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit (100% aggregate contract cost/CUC Beneficiary) or a payment bond. All insurers questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI1s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). A Clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI1s Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less that the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page - http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws including the **Davis Bacon Act.**

This project is funded though a grant from the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)** under the **AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA)**. Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval from the USEPA.

This project involves the installation of transmission lines to connect direct feed wells from the different villages into water tank storages to meet all federal safe water standards and requirements.

The proposed project will also include the construction of new transmission lines to connect 3 new wells in the Kagman area. For Kagman well field, the work will include control panel enclosure buildings, controls, perimeter security fencing, exterior perimeter slabs, installation of pumps, construction of properly designed wellheads and connecting the wells in to the existing transmission line.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

All technical inquiries should be directed to Capt. Robert Lorenz at telephone number (670) 235-7025 Ext. 148 or Mr. Larry T. Manacop at telephone number (670) 235-7025 Ext. 150 and inquiries regarding procurement should be directed to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Procurement & Supply Manager at (670) 235-7025 Ext. 134.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Assistant Executive Director for Operation

/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director

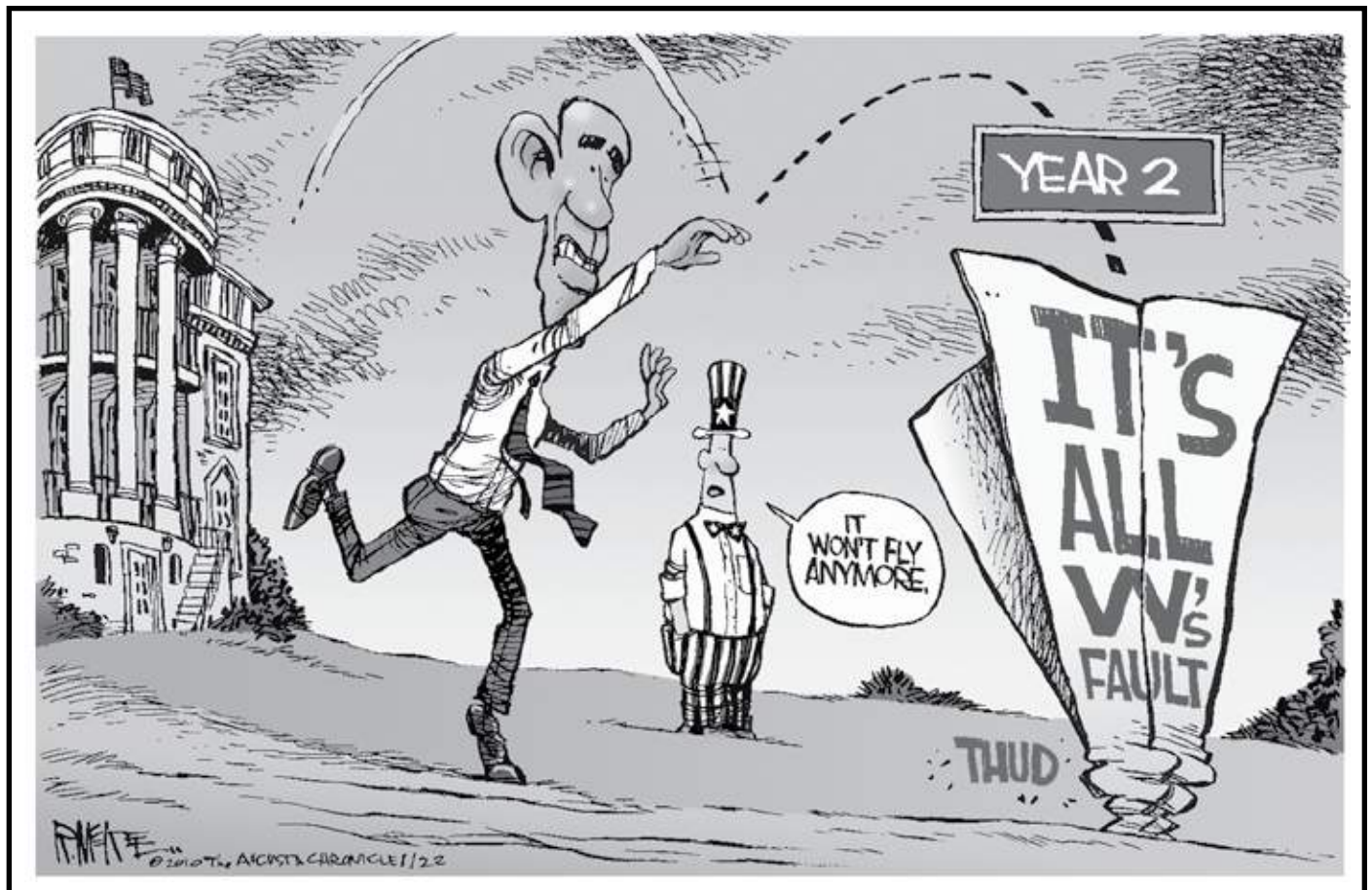
Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 21

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
AP The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association



EDITORIAL

Afghan bribes equal nearly a quarter of national economy

Our man in Kabul, Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai, complained two weeks ago that Western news media had "blown out of proportion" the problem of corruption in his country.

Last week came the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which conducted a scientific survey of 7,600 Afghan citizens, to report that, if anything, the problem is worse than anyone imagined.

"The problem is enormous by any standards," the report says. "In the aggregate, Afghans paid out $2.5 billion in bribes in the past 12 months—that's equivalent to almost one-quarter (23 percent) of Afghanistan's GDP."

Of course, bribes—the Afghans use the old Persian word "baksheesh"—aren't reported, so they don't count toward the actual gross domestic product. Nor, for that matter, does the opium trade, estimated at $2.8 billion in 2009. That baksheesh and drugs, combined, are equal to about half of the legitimate output of goods and services suggests just how daunting a challenge the U.S. military faces.

Six weeks ago, President Barack Obama ordered 27,500 more U.S. troops to Afghanistan, directing them to focus on training Afghan forces to assume a greater security role. The president said that American forces will "support Afghan ministries, governors and local leaders that combat corruption and deliver for the people."

A few days after the president's speech, an Afghan court convicted the mayor of Kabul of corruption, but Karzai immediately declared that the mayor was innocent. A month later, Karzai fired the mayor, although Karzai denied that corruption had anything to do with the decision.

Last week, Karzai installed several cabinet ministers to their posts even after the Afghan parliament had rejected the appointments, complaining that the nominees were corrupt or had links to corrupt warlords.

Parliament then adjourned for a six-week vacation, suggesting a certain lack of urgency to the issue of installing honest cabinet members.

All of this is good news for the Taliban, which has made gains in rural areas by focusing on delivering services without corruption. About one in every four Afghan citizens reported that he had paid at least one bribe to police and local officials in the past year, the U.N. office reports.

"When people who earn less than $2 a day have to bribe their way into basic services, they lose confidence in the system and look for alternative providers of security and welfare," the report says.

The higher up the official food chain, the higher the bribes. Judges, prosecutors and police officials can make out like bandits, and many do. The average cost of an Afghan bribe is $160, the report found, "in a country where GDP per capita is a mere $425 a year."

So this is what U.S. forces in Afghanistan must contend with: Not merely violent jihadists, but also corruption that's fundamental to the economy and a chief "ally" who thinks it's all blown out of proportion. Good luck with that.

(c) 2010, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Questions and concerns

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

Last week we answered various questions that clients have brought to us recently. A number of people indicated that this format very useful to readers. We will, therefore, continue the "Q&A" format this week and possibly in future columns unless there are particular issues that deserve everyone's attention. Please feel free to send us your questions and concerns by email at lexmarianas@pticom.com. We will answer privately, as promptly as we can. If we also select your question to put in this column, we will of course not use your name or any identifying information.

Q: I am a Japanese national and I have lived and worked in the CNMI for the last fifteen years. I am married to an FAS citizen and have had a 240D (formerly 706D) entry permit for years. I also have an umbrella permit in the same permit category. When I went to renew my permit recently, my permit category was changed to 240E (immediate relative of an alien) and I was told that I could no longer work. What can I do to keep my job?

A: You need to go back to the Department of Labor and ask to speak to a supervisor. Several mistakes have been made in your case. First of all, you never should have had a 240D (formerly 706D) entry permit. That permit category is for immediate relatives (IRs) of U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, U.S. permanent residents (green card holders) and CNMI permanent residents. What you should have had all along is a 240ET (formerly 706E) entry permit. Second, the person you spoke to at Labor was misinformed. IRs of FAS citizens are permitted to work in the Commonwealth. The regulations specifically say so, most likely to conform to a federal court decision from the mid-1990s regarding this exact issue. IRs of investors, business entry permit holders, retirees, students and contract workers cannot work. What you need to do is go down to Labor and speak to someone with the authority to clarify your work status. If that is not successful, you may want to hire an attorney to do it for you. You status is very clear: as the immediate relative of an FAS citizen, with a valid 240ET entry permit, you can work in the Commonwealth.

Q: I am a citizen of Bangladesh and I was married to a lady from the FSM. She died more than five years ago. I am employed and have had a 240E (immediate relative of an alien) entry permit both during my marriage and continuing after my wife's death. My entry permit indicates that my wife and sponsor is deceased. I have an umbrella permit and my report back date is coming up. Will my permit be renewed or will I have to convert to another category?

A: You will probably need to convert to the foreign national worker (240K) category. Your employer will need to apply for you and follow all the regular procedures in obtaining a foreign national worker (240K) permit, including JVA, local hiring preference, responsibility for your medical bills and repatriation. Remember though that even if you convert to a 240K permit, you will need to obtain a status under the U.S. immigration system prior to Nov. 27, 2011.

The former policy of CNMI Immigration—allowing widows and widowers of to retain their IR status—is likely to be discontinued. The logic appears to be that widows and widowers of U.S. citizens are eligible for U.S. permanent residence, and now that immigration to the CNMI is under federal control, such persons should seek available U.S. status. Unfortunately, there is a two-year window after the death of the U.S. citizen spouse, during which the widow or widower is eligible to apply for a green card. This leaves all those widows and widowers, whose spouses died more than two years ago and who had no need to apply under CNMI law, out in the cold. USCIS has recently published a policy memo regarding parole for certain vulnerable groups in the CNMI; it does not include widows and widowers of U.S. citizens who didn't file within two years.

We believe that an exception should be made for this small class of surviving spouses of U.S. citizens. Under the Covenant, once the U.S. citizen spouse passed away, the alien surviving spouse became "outside" the U.S. for immigration purposes and, even if U.S. permanent residence was applied for and granted, the surviving spouse would have had to pull up roots again, and move to Guam or some other part of the U.S. to maintain that status. Because CNMI law allowed surviving spouses to remain in IR status indefinitely so long as they did not remarry, many saw no reason to leave until long after it was too late to apply for green cards.

Back to your question: the USCIS parole memo does include: (1) CNMI permanent residents; (2) their immediate relatives; (3) surviving immediate relatives of deceased CNMI permanent residents; and (4) immediate relatives of citizens of the Freely Associated States (FAS), which are the Federated States of Micronesia, The Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

It is unclear whether as the "surviving spouse" of an FAS citizen, you are eligible for this type of parole. This may be an option for you, if your employer is not willing to apply for you

See FORUM on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pristine beaches and peas in a pod

Everyone seems to be wondering what the Marianas Visitors Authority may be doing to build tourism in the islands, especially after the latest Fitial fiasco. Well, here it is…so far: "Come Visit the Soft, Warm Sands of Saipan's Pristine Pacific Beaches," appropriately accompanied by a photograph of blue sky with a soft white, wafting cloud or two, sparkling sands, a scantily clad model and a deep blue ocean. And all of this is found in a couple of unknown Web sites that rarely get a "hit" or plastered on a wall in some obscure travel office that does most of its business by telephone or Internet. There are no brochures outside of the MVA office or the aforementioned travel offices and no promotional films except maybe for that three-minute blurb seen (but not viewed) by people on an arriving jet who are, instead, trying to prepare for the last minute rush to the bathroom.

On the other hand, we have the Executive Branch of our Commonwealth government that has recently been fantastically successful at getting the message out about Saipan to just about every single news outlet, newspaper, talk show, blog and blurb in the entire world; some say now amounting to *millions* of readers and listeners.

And the message being sent is literally loaded with everything you always wanted to know about Saipan in a paragraph or two—and *no* posters. To wit: Massages by exotic young women—even from jail in the middle of the night; how to smuggle people from the NMI to Guam; Garapan's "red light" district open 24/7; chief executive's driver deals drugs from official car (meet the rich and famous); the land of "executive" privilege for those at the high end; law enforcement at the whim of the privileged; legislators unwilling to take a stand (no need to enforce the Constitution, someone else will do it); and, cheap fares via "illegal" taxi to all of the above attractions. With all this to see and do, who needs a clean beach?

The MVA has spent several million dollars a year on paragraph one (above) and tourism has declined to almost nothing because nobody sees or hears the message nor do they distinguish it from the bazillion similar messages from every tropical island government in the world. The Executive Branch has spent nothing, except the cost of a one-hour (or so) massage and has yielded the equivalent of *millions* in *free* advertising that *everybody* has seen. Now *that* should bring in gazillions of tourists, right Ben? Somewhere, there's a message here.

Quick note to members of the House: Seven governors have either been forced out or voluntarily stepped down in the last two years after federal authorities exposed "deeds" (some illegal, some just inappropriate) and not a single state legislature has "waited" for an outside agency (the feds) to take *any* action before acting themselves—except *you*. The simple appearance of impropriety was enough in every case. Has the cat got your tongue? Or is it just all that "other" dirt that might come out? Do you believe damage to the NMI's worldwide image is unimportant if it originates from within? We must all remember that Fitial and Abramoff are "peas in a pod" (also see below for more "peas") for over 15 years. Jack has yielded over 500,000 pages of "investigative" testimony in exchange for a lesser sentence during the last three years. (He got five years, 10 months instead of 10). Can't wait to see what all those pages have to say. The CNMI parts—so far—have resulted in *eight* convictions and 10 "lost" congressional seats. More to come?

Any of these names ring a bell, Ben? Nurnberge, Bierne, Farrow, Scanlon, Safavian, Ney, Foley, Kidan, Griles, DeLay, Doolittle, Lapin, Clyburn, Thompson, Rohrabacher, Calvert, Hall, Reed, Stillwell, Rudy, Norquist, Ralston, Buckham, Burns and "Katrina." This constitutes some of Ben's former friends, acquaintances and associates (mostly through Jack). Where are they now, Ben?

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
San Jose, Tinian

Where is our Christian passion?

I am very disturbed by the negative messages published in the news and the Internet regarding Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's massage therapist. The majority of writers are blaming Governor Fitial for allowing a federal detainee to go out from prison to perform massage without approval from federal officials. The blame should not be with the governor; it should fall squarely on Mrs. Dolores M. Aldan, the Corrections supervisor, who did not use her good judgment to first get approval from federal officials. But knowing Mrs. Aldan as a Christian who believes in helping others who are in pain and need, it overshadowed her ability to make good judgment.

Everyone knows that at the time when Governor Fitial got his massage, there were many visitors and dignitaries here from Japan, Korea, China, Palau, Federal State of Micronesia and U.S. mainland. Our governor was possibly experiencing pain due to his busy schedule, welcoming and entertaining visitors and dignitaries to our Commonwealth. Ask yourself these: If you are experiencing pain and you need to immediately feel better because you have a very important job to do, who would you call? The one who has been massaging you for years and you trust or somebody you do not know?

Juan M. Sablan
As Teo, Saipan

Earth to Remy

The issue in regards to the federal inmate's trip to relieve the governor's pain is not the issue here. The issue is about a federal prisoner being let out without proper notification. That's the issue! Of course everyone wants priority care in life or death situations or even back pains. When it comes to federal issues, it is not a game. There is protocol on all matters. I hope you understand that a DOC (Department of Comfort) inmate is different from a federal inmate. Local laws and federal laws are two different compositions. To be humane or considerate? We will leave that up to the feds. Hope you get the picture!

Vince G. Cabrera
Chalan Piao, Saipan

Damage to the islands

Congratulations to the over 1,600 people who came out to the military's DEIS public forum in the past few days! It takes tremendous courage to speak in a cold and hostile climate like that—more courage than almost anything else humans do.

Bice's recent comments in the media relative to the testimonies made and the kiosk-style question and answer by his experts were incredibly revealing. He poses each of the 1,600 people—many unhappy, angry, committed to stopping the buildup—as assets to his own project of showing that he has been democratic and open to comments. In fact, he poses the people as naive questioners who get answers from experts, not as experts who are telling the naive and self-interested DOD about the damage they have done and are doing to the islands and the people.

Another quote from Bice is quite revealing: "I can tell you that we are going to make adjustments to the EIS. We've heard comments made by people as we go along. I would make a mental note [when I hear] a solid comment that we need to take a look at either the plan or the phraseology that's in the EIS that may not be as clear as it should have been. So I can tell you that we are going to make adjustments to the EIS based upon the comments we received." The man wasn't even taking notes of what people were saying! This attitude is a clear reflection of the military's attitude toward the people of the Marianas for over 100 years!

Hope A. Cristobal
Former senator

An act of cruelty

On Thursday afternoon, Dr. Tudor of Paradise Island Animal Hospital received a call from one of his clients reporting that a family pet had been decapitated in the Garapan area. This act of cruelty is especially alarming because it was a two-step process, which means the individual was engaged in the act and probably took some interest in the act: (1) the cat's head was crushed; and (2) the cat was decapitated. This was a pet—a well cared for animal that was loved by his/her family.

The seriousness of this crime demands attention. So, we are seeking your assistance in finding the person that committed this heinous offense.

The act took place in Garapan, near the Wax Museum, most likely on Wednesday night or early Thursday morning.

If you live in the area and have information that may assist in this investigation, please call Crime Stoppers at 234-7272 or the Department of Public Safety (DPS) at 664-9001/2. Due to the nature of this crime, and how animals are regarded on Saipan, PAWS also encourages you to call our hotline and report information at 285-PAWS or email us at busenkell@gmail.com. We will do our best to ensure that a proper investigation is conducted.

Animal cruelty and abuse is often linked to crimes committed against humans. Such acts are indicative of a desensitized human being—one that presents a threat to his/her community. Therefore, it is very important that we find this person and continue to record such cruel acts.

For more information on the link between animal abuse and domestic violence, please visit the following Web sites:

- www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/188677.pdf
- http://www.americanhumane.org/about-us/newsroom/fact-sheets/animal-abuse-domestic-violence.html
- http://www.aspca.org/fight-animal-cruelty/domestic-violence-and-animal-cruelty.html
- http://www.paws.org/help/report/connection.php.

Katie Busenkell
President, PAWS

FORUM

From Page 11

as a 240K foreign national worker. You may be able to apply for parole which would be adjudicated on an individual basis. There is no fee for this service and it would give you a legal basis to remain in the CNMI. If you want to work, you would need to apply for a work authorization by submitting a Form I-765 together with a filing fee of $340. I suggest you make an Infopass appointment with USCIS-Saipan and inquire. You can do this online at www.uscis.gov.

Q: I am a Korean citizen living in the CNMI. I am married to another Korean who is a U.S. citizen. I have a CNMI 240E permit but no umbrella permit. Three years ago, I overstayed my tourist permit in Guam by two years. I returned to Korea of my own will, and was never charged with any immigration violation. Will this affect my application for a green card now?

A: Yes it will. Your overstay in Guam was a violation of U.S. immigration law, even if you were never caught. Because your overstay exceeded one year, it triggers what is known as a 10-year bar. That means you will not be admitted to the U.S. for a period of 10 years. There are limited waivers available for this, but they do not apply in your case. Therefore you need to stay outside the U.S. for 10 years after your departure from Guam before applying for a visa, including, in your case, a green card. Prior to Nov. 28, 2009, the CNMI was not considered part of the U.S. for immigration purposes. Therefore, your time in the CNMI before Nov. 28 will count toward the 10 years you must stay out. So will your time in Korea after you returned there from Guam. But your time in the CNMI after Nov. 28 will not count because we are now part of the U.S. for immigration purposes. So you need to return to Korea to wait out the balance of the 10 years. Once the time is passed, all is forgiven and you can apply for U.S. permanent residency. However, you will need to apply through what is known as consular processing, through the State Department at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul. We are told that that particular embassy is very cooperative and efficient in processing applications.

When you overstay, you begin to accumulate what is referred to as "bad time." If you had overstayed for less than six months, there would be no bar. After six months of bad time, you are barred from entering the U.S. for three years. The 10-year bar kicks in when you accumulate one year of bad time, or more. We are starting to see quite a few people who have less than six months bad time. Those people need to depart or, if possible, adjust to a legal immigration status as soon as possible. We will take up the issue of bars to admission in another column.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune *at editor@saipantribune.com.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼73
Palau	Rain	▲86	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲84	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲89	▼79
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Rain	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲84	▼78

Around The Globe

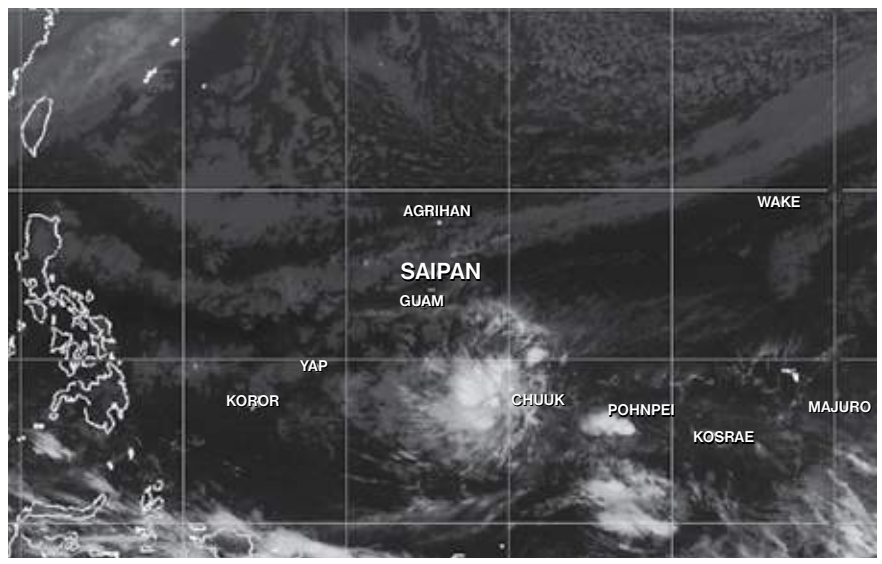
Auckland	Showers	▲72	▼63
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲37	▼19
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲65	▼57
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼68
London	Partly Sunny	▲37	▼30
Los Angeles	Rain	▲60	▼48
Manila	Cloudy	▲88	▼72
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲79	▼56
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲73	▼56
New York	Partly Sunny	▲45	▼32
Osaka	Cloudy	▲44	▼32
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲30	▼24
Pusan	Sunny	▲50	▼30
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲52	▼50
Salem	Showers	▲47	▼32
San Francisco	Rain	▲57	▼45
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲36	▼25
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲48	▼36
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲47	▼29

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:28 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
9:35 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
2:56 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:53 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front enters the discussion area northeast of Wake Island at 25N170E and extends southwestward to Guguan at 17N146E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 15N. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of this feature. An old shear line extends southwestward from 17N180 through Enewetak atoll at 11N162E to end north of Chuuk near 9N153E. Patchy clouds and light rain are seen along and up to 300 miles northwest of the shear line between 170E and 154E. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from Halmahera through 2N130E to 2N148E then turns northeastward to a low-level circulation southeast of Chuuk at 4N154E and continues eastward to beyond 180 at 3N. Interaction with the aforementioned old shear line along the northern periphery of the circulation is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Chuuk between 5N and 10N from 149E to 155E farther east near the near-equatorial trough axis. Widely scattered to scattered showers are occurring over Pohnpei, Kosrae, Tarawa and Butaritari atolls or south of a line from 8N155E to 8N161E to 5N172E to 6N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:56 PM	2:26 AM
Wednesday	2:58 PM	3:28 AM
Thursday	4:03 PM	4:30 AM
Friday	5:10 PM	5:29 AM
Saturday	6:16 PM	6:25 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 23, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT
NW638	8:00am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
NW289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily via NRT effective Jan 25
NW277	8:30pm	1:00am+1	3, 6
NW639	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

17th Commonwealth Legislature Directory

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TENORIO, FROILAN C. (Covenant)
House Speaker
E:mail: speaker.tenorio@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.rep.tenoriof@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.speakertenorio@gmail.com
Phone: 664-8971, 664-8972 , 664-8900 (Fax)
Extension: 300, 286, 309
Staff: Geri Cruz, Rebecca Manglona, Speaker's Conference Room

OGUMORO, FELICIDAD T. (Covenant)
Vice Speaker
E-mail: rep.ogumorof@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.rep.ogumorof@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8978, 664-8974, 664-8864 (Fax)
Extension: 313, 258
Staff : Josephine Kapileo

CAMACHO, GEORGE N. (Independent)
Floor Leader
Email: rep.camachog@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.rep.camachog@cnmileg.gov
Phone: 664-8836, 664-8838 (Fax)
Extension: 310
Staff: Carmen T. Andon, Musky Bosil, Shaldon Kaainoa

BASA, RAMON S. (Covenant)
Representative
Chairman, Standing Committee on Ways and Means
Email: rep.basar@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.rep.basar@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8841, 664-8825, 664-8827 (Fax)
Extension: 230
Staff: Piding Ada, Fabian Muna

BENAVENTE, DIEGO T. (Republican)
Representative
Email: rep.benavented@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.rep.benavented@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8931, 664-8880 (Fax)
Extension: 241, 242

CABRERA, ELICEO D. (Republican)
Representative
Email: rep.carbrerae@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.rep.cabrerae@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8830, 664-8831 (Fax)
Extension: 489
Staff: Regina Torres, Antonio I. Celis

CONNER, TRENTON (Republican)
Representative
Email: rep.connert@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.rep.connert@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8888 , 664-8889 (Fax)
Extention: 272
Staff: Rita Cabrera

DELA CRUZ, FRANCISCO S. (Republican)
Representative
Email: rep.delacruzf@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.rep.delacruz@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8897, 664-8902 (Fax)
Extention: 303
Staff: Cheryl Salalila, Lanz Brel, Donald Tagabuel

DELEON GUERRERO, FREDERICK P. (Independent)
Representative
Chairman, Standing Committee on United States and Foreign Relations
Email: rep.dlguerrerof@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.rep.dlguerrerof@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8806, 664-8838 (Fax)
Extension: 239
Staff: Melissa M. Camacho, Eloy Dela Cruz, Samisoni Pomee

DELEON GUERRERO, JOSEPH P. (Republican)
Representative
Email: rep.dlguerreroj@gmail.com
staff.rep.dlguerreroj@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8829, 664-8816 (Fax)
Extension: 237
Staff: Michelle Camacho, Kevin Deleon Guerrero, Jeremy Castro, Fernando Sanchez

DEMAPAN, RAFAEL S. (Covenant)
Representative
Chairman, Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations
Email: rep.demapanr@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.rep.demapanr@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8899
Extension: 296
Staff: Acha P. Cruz

IGUEL, SYLVESTRE I. (Covenant)
Representative
Email: rep.iguels@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.rep.iguels@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8983, 664-8985 (Fax)
Extention: 251
Staff: Ana R. Taitano, Francisco Camacho

PALACIOS, JOSEPH M. (Republican)
Representative
Email: rep.palaciosj@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.rep.palaciosj@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8928, 664-8930 (Fax)
Extension: 277
Staff: Kimberly Reyes

PALACIOS, RAYMOND D. (Covenant)
Representative
Email: rep.palaciosr@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.rep.palaciosr@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8923, 664-8926 (Fax)
Extension: 236, 494
Staff: Terry C. Iginoef

SABLAN, ANTONIO P. (Republican)
Representative
Email: rep.sablana@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.sablana@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8881, 664-8895 (Fax)
Extension: 301
Staff: Emilio M. DL Guerrero

SANTOS, TERESITA A. (Independent)
Representative
Chairman, Standing Committee on Natural Resources
Email: rep.santost@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.rep.santost@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8890, 664-8892 (Fax)
Extension: 232
Staff: Juana Atalig

TEBUTEB, RAMON A. (Republican)
Representative
Email: rep.tebutebr@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.rep.tebutebr@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8925, 664-8871 (Fax)
Extension: 304
Staff: Lyn Duenas, Steve Tomokane

TORRES, STANLEY T. (Independent)
Representative
Chairman, Standing Committee on Public Utilities, Transportations, and Communications
Email: rep.torress@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.rep.torress@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8903, 664-8842 (Fax)
Extension: 505
Staff: Jessica Tomokane, Esther Koshiro, Lawrence Duenas

VILLAGOMEZ, EDMUND S. (Covenant)
Representative
Chairman, Standing Committee on Commerce and Tourism
Email: rep.evillagomez@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.evillagomez@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8965, 664-8966 (Fax
Extension: 276

Staff: Bobbie Mizutani

YUMUL, RAY N. (Republican)
Representative
Email: rep.yumulr@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.rep.yumulr@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8826, 664-8822 (Fax)
Extension: 305
Staff: Jolyn Duenas, Victor Romolor

THE SENATE

MANGLONA, PAUL A. (Independent)
Senate President
Email: sen.manglonap@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.sen.manglonap@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8809, 664-8810 (Fax)
Intercom: 243, 244, 284
Staff: Leticia Palacios, President's Conference Room

HOFSCHNEIDER, JUDE U. (Republican)
Vice President
Email: sen.hofschneiderj@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.sen.hofschneiderj@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8803, 664-8824 (Fax)
Intercom: 246
Staff: Emlyn Aldan

REYES, PETE P. (Republican)
Floor Leader
Email: sen.reyesp@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.reyesp@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8858, 664-8860 (Fax)
Intercom: 223
Staff: Tracy Towai, Danny Concepcion, Conference Room

TAIMANAO, JOVITA M. (Independent)
Legislative Secretary
Email: sen.taimanaoj@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.sen.taimanaoj@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8858, 664-8860 (Fax)
Intercom: 223
Staff: Amy Shai

CRISOSTIMO, LUIS P. (Democrat)
Senator
Email: sen.crisostimol@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.sen.crisostimol@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8967, 664-8968, 664-8919 (Fax)
Intercom: 298
Staff: Maryann Calvo, Dan Castro

CRUZ, FRANCISCO Q. (Republican)
Senator
Email: sen.cruzf@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.sen.cruzf@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8922, 664-8938 (Fax)
Intercom: 226
Staff: Mike Kiyoshi

AYUYU, JUAN M. (Independent)
Senator
Email: sen.ayuyuj@cnmileg.gov.mp
staff.sen.ayuyu@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8812, 664-8813 (Fax)
Intercom: 228
Staff: Pres Torres

TORRES, RALPH DLG. (Republican)
Senator
Email: senatorrtorres@gmail.com
mskai_delacruz@yahoo.com
Phone: 664-8874, 664-8876 (Fax)
Intercom: 486
Staff: Frances Dela Cruz

SAN NICOLAS, HENRY H. (Covenant)
Senator
Email: senatorchandia@yahoo.com
staff.sen.sannicolash@cnmileg.gov.mp
Phone: 664-8814, 664-8815 (Fax)
Intercom: 249
Staff: Jack A

Business

Taiwan set to open key trade talks with China

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan and China open negotiations Tuesday in Beijing on a trade pact that seems destined to change the island's character in a way not seen since it split from the Chinese mainland amid civil war 60 years ago.

The accord seeks to add momentum to Taiwan's already improving relationship with China, reducing tariff barriers, liberalizing investment regulations and creating new structures for financial cooperation.

Debate on the accord has dominated political discourse on the island of 23 million people since the issue was broached by President Ma Ying-jeou's China-friendly government a year ago.

It goes right to the heart of Taiwan's future: Should it risk undermining its economic prospects by rejecting the embrace of China? Or should it cast its lot with the communist colossus, and increase the chances of losing its de facto independence and its hard-won democratic freedoms?

Ma and his ruling Nationalist Party don't see things so starkly. They say they can maintain Taiwan's sovereignty even while linking the island ever closer to China's lucrative markets and in the process dilute Beijing's longstanding objections to additional trade agreements between Taiwan and other Asian nations.

Ma says the deal must be sealed by May because a pending Chinese trade agreement with countries in Southeast Asia will soon price many Taiwanese exports out of the regional marketplace. He sees the China accord as the best way of counteracting an international commercial isolation that in recent years has seen Taiwan lag behind business rivals South Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong.

"We have already fallen behind in the process of regional economic integration among Asian countries," Ma told a Taiwanese newspaper last week. "And things will worsen if we don't change the situation."

Opponents of the proposed Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement, or ECFA, reject Ma's arguments out of hand. They say that with China fully committed to bringing Taiwan back under its control, what is needed is less economic contact with the mainland rather than more.

"You have to ask what is China's major purpose in signing ECFA," said international relations specialist Lo Chih-cheng of Taipei's Soochow University. "It is to increase Taiwan's political and economic dependence on Beijing."

Lo said the government's claims that the accord would add more than 1 percent to Taiwan's annual growth are badly misplaced, because the island will eventually have to let in Chinese exports like agricultural goods that will strongly undermine local markets.

Lo also ridiculed Ma's insistence that after the agreement is signed, other Asian countries will feel liberated from Chinese political pressure, and sign their own trade agreements with Taipei.

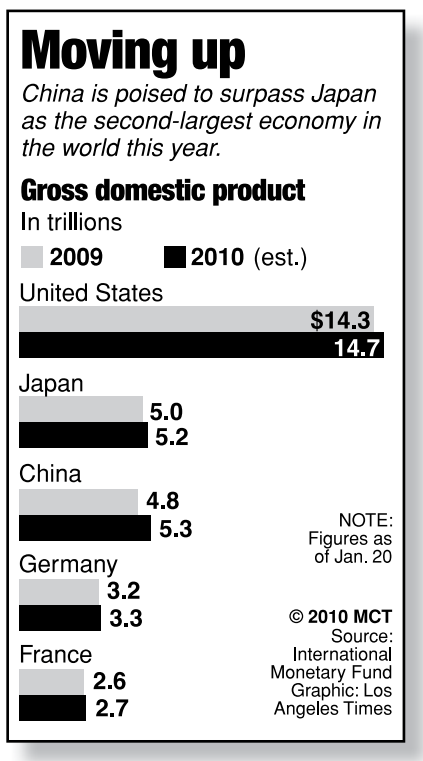
"It doesn't make any sense for China to let them do that," he said. "It won't allow anything that reduces Taiwan's dependence on the mainland. After all, the whole point of ECFA is to increase it."

Even before Ma assumed the presidency 20 months ago, Taiwan already was moving to leverage its natural advantages in the China market—a common language and similar culture—to increase commercial ties. Drawn by cheap land and labor, Taiwanese businesspeople established thousands of factories in Chinese coastal provinces and stepped up their exports of electronics components and other goods for mainland assembly.

By 2008, Taiwan's China investments exceeded $100 billion and annual trade was running at a similar amount—heavily in Taiwan's favor.

But since Ma took office in May 2008, the contacts have taken on new momentum—in stark opposition to the pro-independence policies of the main opposition Democratic Progressive Party, which ruled the island for eight years until Ma came to power.

Regular flights and shipping services across the 100-mile- (160-kilometer-) wide Taiwan Strait have been inaugurated, and regulations for cross-strait investment liberalized. Tuesday's start of trade accord negotiations in Beijing will further clear the way for the Taiwanese economy's integration into that of the mainland.

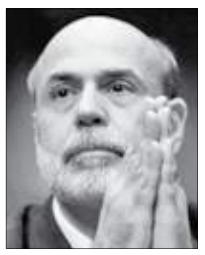


Uncertainty on Bernanke vote raises economic fears

WASHINGTON (AP)—A defeat of Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's quest for another four-year term could raise the risk of a "double dip" recession if political jousting over a successor were to drag on for months, economists warn.

But Bernanke's prospects appeared to brighten Sunday, with three more senators, including Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, predicting he'll be confirmed. A vote is expected later this week.

Still, the chance of Bernanke's defeat has unsettled Wall Street, contributing to last week's 4 percent loss by the Dow Jones industrial average, its worst performance in 10 months. If Bernanke were rejected, uncertainty over a successor would further roil global markets, at least in the short run.


Bernanke

Anxiety, along with sagging investments, could cause consumers and businesses to cut spending. Joblessness, already at 10 percent, could worsen. And the recovery might fail.

Economists who fear a double-dip recession—in which the recovery would collapse into another recession—regard it as a worst-case scenario. But they don't rule it out, either.

Lynn Reaser, chief economist for the National Association for Business Economics, is among them. She sees the likelihood of a double-dip as less than 50 percent.

"It will become more acute if there are delays in confirming a successor," she says, noting that the economic recovery remains fragile, with spending still weak, credit tight and job creation scarce.

"All the political angst over the confirmation couldn't have come at a worse time for the economy," Reaser says.

A Bernanke loss would heighten uncertainty about Fed policies on interest rates and stimulus measures. In part, that's because Bernanke devised the unconventional supports for the economy and likely knows how best to safely wind them down, notes Edward Yardeni, chief investment strategist at Yardeni Research.

But even more worrisome for the markets and the economy would be if Bernanke's Senate foes are seen as having meddled with the Fed's independence for political reasons.

Obama on banks: A bit pragmatic amid the populism

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama is pressing an overhaul of Wall Street regulations with a push-and-pull strategy—reasserting his desire for a consumer agency that Republicans despise while proposing new bank restrictions that even Republicans could love.

As he readies for his State of the Union speech Wednesday, the president's approach reflects the demands of a new political landscape in Washington, where Republicans now have the votes to block Democratic initiatives in the Senate.

In his address, expected to focus heavily on the economy, Obama will seek to steer the public's anger over joblessness and bailouts while recognizing that Democrats alone can't do his bidding in Congress.

On the Wall Street front, Obama is trying to capitalize on public anger by making a populist pitch sharply critical of big bankers while also extending a pragmatic hand to Republicans with a proposal that, at the very least, has intrigued them.

Right now, a sweeping change in banking regulations is the best chance Obama has at claiming an accomplishment this year after a stunning Republican victory in Massachusetts weakened Democratic control of the Senate.

As announced last week, Obama now wants the government to restrict large bank holding companies that combine commercial and investment banking from carrying out high-risk bets called proprietary trading. The idea had been pushed for more than a year by former Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker, the head of the President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board. It also became a top issue with Vice President Joseph Biden, a longtime friend of Volcker's.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Wal-Mart cuts about 11,200 Sam's Club staffers

NEW YORK (AP)—Wal-Mart Stores Inc. will cut about 11,200 jobs at Sam's Club warehouses as it turns over the task of in-store product demonstrations to an outside marketing company. The move is an effort to improve sales at Sam's Club, which has underperformed the company's namesake stores in the U.S. and abroad. The cuts represent about 10 percent of the warehouse club operator's 110,000 staffers across its 600 stores. That includes 10,000 workers, mostly part-timers, who offer food samples and showcase products to customers. The company also eliminated 1,200 workers who recruit new members. Employees were told the news at mandatory meetings on Sunday morning.

Bill Gates says innovation can leverage change

SEATTLE (AP)—The needs of the poor are greater than the money available to help them, but that's not enough to discourage Bill Gates in his work as co-chair of the world's largest charitable foundation. In his second annual letter, issued Monday, Gates says investment in science and technology can leverage those dollars and make more of a difference than charity and government aid alone. In his 19-page letter, Gates says the foundation currently is backing 30 areas of innovation including online learning, teacher improvement, malaria vaccine development, HIV prevention, and genetically modified seeds. The Seattle-based foundation focuses most of its donations on global health, agriculture development and education. Since 1994, the foundation has committed to $21.3 billion in grants. As of Sept. 30, 2009, its endowment totaled $34.17 billion.

Oil stays below $75 in Asia as stock markets fall

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Oil prices stayed below $75 a barrel in Asia on Monday, dampened by falls in regional stock markets and on Wall Street over President Barack Obama's plans to restrict big banks. Benchmark crude for March delivery dipped 2 cents to $74.52 a barrel at midday Kuala Lumpur time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract lost $1.54 to settle at $74.54 on Friday. The Dow Jones industrial average fell for third straight day on Friday, losing 4.1 percent over the week. It was the worst showing for the market since it began its recovery last March, partly due to disappointing earnings results and Obama's plan for tighter regulations.

Revamped brands are key to Chrysler turnaround

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Chrysler sold more than 118,000 Sebring sedans in 2001. Eight years later, the automaker barely sold 27,000 as its bankruptcy filing sent customers fleeing to the car's newer, better competitors.

Chrysler now has a turnaround plan that promises improved quality and a stream of new models. But it won't work unless Chrysler can get cars like the Sebring back on people's shopping lists. To do that, Chrysler is going back to the basics: Reinventing its car brands—Chrysler as a luxury line, Dodge as a quirky value brand—and reintroducing them with head-turning ads.

It's a tall order, but Chrysler insists it can be done.

"We've had troubles. Yeah. We saw death. But the whole world needs to realize we're serious about this plan," Dodge brand chief Ralph Gilles told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "We're no dummies. We know what a good car is and what a good car isn't."

Chrysler's truck brands, Jeep and Ram, have strong identities in buyers' minds. But its car brands are mushy, said Allen Adamson of the San Francisco-based branding firm Landor Associates. One of Chrysler's first actions under Fiat SpA, which took control of the automaker last year, was to split Ram truck from Dodge so Dodge could stand alone.

"What they need to do is quickly define what they want to stand for and then build on it," Adamson said.

Dodge will try to make a big splash with an ad during the Super Bowl next month. Chrysler Group LLC, which has yet to pay back $15.5 billion it borrowed from the federal government, is taking some heat for paying an estimated $5 million to air the ad.

Nation

Crews try to protect wildlife from Texas oil spill

AP

Tugs fight the current to maintain the The Eagle Otome's location on the Sabine Neches Waterway after an oil spill in Port Arthur, Texas on Sunday, Jan. 24, 2010.

DALLAS (AP)—Crews worked Sunday to protect two sensitive wildlife areas after a crude oil spill shut down parts of a major southeast Texas port, state Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson said.

Plastic walls known as booms and oil-sucking skimmer boats were used to safeguard a lake that is a crucial breeding ground and a wildlife management area that lost its protective gates when Hurricane Ike roared ashore a year and a half ago, Patterson said.

The U.S. Coast Guard said about 462,000 gallons—or 11,000 barrels—of oil spilled into the water Saturday when an 800-foot tanker collided with a towing vessel pushing two barges near Port Arthur, about 90 miles east of Houston. It was the largest spill in Texas since 1994, but still well shy of one 20 years ago involving Norwegian tanker Mega Borg that leaked 4.3 million gallons of crude oil about 60 miles off Galveston.

The tide lifted the two ships and they separated shortly after midnight Sunday without more oil being spilled, Coast Guard Petty Officer Richard Brahm said.

The crew of the damaged tanker, the Eagle Atome, said the remaining 69,000 of the 80,000 barrels of oil in the ship were pumped out, according to the Coast Guard.

Chief Warrant Officer Lionel Bryant of the Coast Guard said about 45,800 feet of booms were deployed to contain the spill.

"Because of where it happened, we were able to get teams out there quickly to at least contain it for now," Bryant said. "But it's still a tremendously large spill."

None of the sensitive wildlife areas had been affected, Bryant said. That included Keith Lake, a breeding ground for shrimp and other small fish, and the Murphree Wildlife Management Area, where several endangered species have been spotted.

Bryant said his agency had one report of an oil-covered bird and encouraged residents to report any sightings of affected wildlife.

"It's too early to claim victory yet," Bryant said. "Right now, there's no impact in the marshes and no impact in Keith Lake."

Coast Guard officials have said the spill was mostly contained in a 2-mile stretch of the Sabine Neches Waterway, which runs along the city of Port Arthur. The area off-limits to ships was extended 18 miles to the Texas Gulf Coast in case of a breach or a wind shift that might complicate containment efforts, Bryant said.

The Sabine Neches Waterway is the second-largest in Texas, according to the online Handbook of Texas. Bryant said refineries generally are prepared for a 72-hour shutdown, which would extend into Tuesday. He said it wasn't known when the waterway would reopen.

Scientists create model of monster 'Frankenstorm'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Think the recent wild weather that hammered California was bad? Experts are imagining far worse.

As torrential rains pelted wildfire-stripped hillsides and flooded highways, a team of scientists hunkered down at the California Institute of Technology to work on a "Frankenstorm" scenario—a mother lode wintry blast that could potentially sock the Golden State.

The hypothetical but plausible storm would be similar to the 1861-1862 extreme floods that temporarily moved the state capital from Sacramento to San Francisco and forced the then-governor to attend his inauguration by rowboat.

The scenario "is much larger than anything in living memory," said project manager Dale Cox with the U.S. Geological Survey.

In the scenario, the storm system forms in the Pacific and slams into the West Coast with hurricane-force winds, hitting Southern California the hardest. After more than a week of ferocious weather, the system stalls for a few days. Another storm brews offshore and this time pummels Northern California.

Such a monster storm could unleash as much as 8 feet of rain over three weeks in some areas, said research meteorologist Martin Ralph with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who is part of the project.

It makes the latest Pacific storm system look like a drop in the bucket. A weeklong siege of storms walloped California, flooding coasts and roads, spawning tornados and forcing the evacuation of about 2,000 homes below fire-scarred mountains for fear of mudslides. The National Weather Service said the storms dumped up to a foot in the mountains northwest of Los Angeles in a week.

Weather experts say West Coast storms could get more frequent and severe with climate change. Last fall, a team of federal, state and academic experts was formed to tackle what would happen if a series of powerful storms lashed at the state for 23 days. The scenario is expected to be completed this summer and will be used in a statewide disaster drill next year.

Ironically, the team had scheduled meetings at Caltech to learn about the fictional storm's impact to dams, sewage treatment plants, transportation and the electrical grid. About a dozen canceled due to the storms.

"They had to deal with the real thing," said chief scientist Lucy Jones of the USGS.

Cape Wind's fate unclear, even in Obama's hands

BOSTON (AP)—After eight years of review, the future of a controversial wind farm off Cape Cod now rests in what would seem to be friendly hands—an Obama administration that's pledged to make the U.S. "the world's leading exporter of clean energy."

But it's tough to tell if Cape Wind's prospects just got better or worse.

Obama has never mentioned the project while talking publicly about renewable energy, despite his enthusiasm for the topic and the fact Cape Wind would be the nation's first offshore wind farm.

Some Cape Wind advocates have chalked up Obama's silence to respect for the late Sen. Edward Kennedy, an early and influential Obama backer. Kennedy battled the project fiercely, writing Obama of his opposition the month before he died in August from brain cancer.

To add to the uncertainty, Obama's Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, who pledged this month to decide whether to approve Cape Wind by the end of April, has called it "a good project." But two Obama appointees to agencies connected to the project's review have links to its chief opposition, the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound.

U.S. National Park Service head Jonathan Jarvis is the brother of alliance consultant Destry Jarvis. And Federal Aviation Administration chief Randy Babbitt has worked for the alliance. Both are recused from any decisions involving Cape Wind.

A White House spokeswoman, Moira Mack, did not respond to specific inquiries about Cape Wind, but said the administration "believes that investing in wind energy—on and offshore—is an important part of the transition to a low-carbon economy and has supported new policies and investments to help realize that goal."

Corruption rampant in Pennsylvania coal country

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. (AP)—After a six-year run in the NFL, Greg Skrepenak came home to Pennsylvania and parlayed his name recognition and hometown popularity into a seat on the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners.

He'd campaigned as a reformer. It turns out he was anything but: Prosecutors charged him last month with accepting $5,000 in gifts from a developer seeking public financing of a condominium project. He is scheduled to plead guilty on Tuesday.

Another day, another fallen politician in the coal fields of northeastern Pennsylvania, where FBI agents and federal prosecutors have spent the past year rooting out government corruption in a hardscrabble region known for its pay-to-play politics, suspicion of outsiders and resistance to political change.

Twenty-three people in Luzerne County—including a school superintendent, three county judges, four courthouse officials, and five school board members—have been charged so far in a variety of unrelated schemes.

In the most egregious abuse of the public's trust, two judges are charged with taking $2.8 million in kickbacks to place youth offenders in for-profit detention facilities—a scandal known as "kids for cash." While thousands of juvenile convictions have been dismissed by the state Supreme Court, youth advocates say the lives of countless children and their families were ruined.

The ongoing federal corruption probe has sent tremors through an insular political culture where graft, patronage and nepotism have been accepted practice since the golden age of anthracite coal a century ago—when waves of European immigrants arrived in this mountainous region 100 miles north of Philadelphia to work in mines, breweries and railroads.

ACROSS THE NATION

FBI: Man who tried to open airplane door released

DENVER (AP)—A man accused of attempting to open an airplane's exterior door while in flight has been released after investigators determined it wasn't a terrorism matter, authorities said Sunday. The incident occurred Saturday on a United Airlines jetliner en route from Washington, D.C., to Las Vegas. The plane, which had more than 100 people aboard, was diverted to Denver International Airport. FBI spokeswoman Kathy Wright said a passenger tried opening one of the front doors of the airplane and may have tried to open the cockpit door before passengers restrained him. The man was taken into custody, questioned and released for a medical evaluation, she said.

Getting a cold one is no problem at Pa. ice bar

DRUMS, Pa. (AP)—At one eastern Pennsylvania restaurant, getting a cold one is no problem: Everything is on ice—and under it, and surrounded by it. Damenti's Restaurant in Butler Township has set up a temporary freestanding bar with a pirate theme in its backyard that is almost completely made of 50 tons of ice. To keep the ice from melting, air conditioning brings the mercury down to about 20 degrees. Owner Kevin McDonald says he's hoping the novelty will bring in the crowds. About 40 people can fit in the 480-square-foot structure. The decor includes a skull and crossbones that covers an entire wall and pirate motifs and sayings etched into the walls both inside and outside.

3 boys die after falling into river in Ohio

FREMONT, Ohio (AP)—Authorities say three boys have died after falling through ice on the Sandusky River in north-central Ohio. The boys were last seen playing Sunday afternoon outside a home in Rice Township a few blocks from the river. Authorities received a call just before 1:30 p.m. that the boys had fallen through the ice. Sandusky County Sheriff Kyle Overmyer says divers found the boys in the river and they were taken to local hospitals, where they were pronounced dead. Overmyer has identified the boys as 8-year-old Jay'Den Taylor-Everett, his brother, 9-year-old Da'Vontae Everett, and 11-year-old Rafel Villanueva, all of Fremont, Ohio.

Asia

Okinawa vote pressures Japan on US Marine base

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese voters delivered another blow to a stalled agreement to relocate a key American military base on Okinawa by electing a mayor on Sunday who campaigned on a promise to oppose the project.

The vote in the Okinawa city of Nago increases pressure on Japan's left-leaning government to mothball an agreement with the U.S. about the base—risking a rift between the allies at a time of rising Asia security concerns from North Korea's nuclear program and China's rising military strength.

Residents of Nago chose challenger Susumu Inamine—who campaigned against any expansion of U.S. military presence in the area—over incumbent Yoshikazu Shimabukuro.

Nago is where Washington and Tokyo agreed in 2006 to move the Futenma U.S. Marine airfield from a more crowded part of the southern Japanese island.

After securing victory, Inamine celebrated with jubilant supporters gathered at his office.

"I fought this campaign vowing to resist the base," he said. "I intend to keep that promise as we move forward."

While the city mayor has little power to decide national policy, the vote could prove pivotal in Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama's upcoming decision on whether to implement the relocation pact.

The deal was part of a broader realignment of American troops forged after a helicopter from the base crashed into a university near Futenma. More than half of some 47,000 American troops stationed in Japan are in Okinawa, where many residents complain about noise, pollution and crime linked to the bases.

The Futenma facility, home to about 2,000 Marines, is one of the corps' largest facilities in the Pacific. The United States insists the base must stay somewhere in Okinawa so that the Marine units remain cohesive. But some Japanese politicians have suggested moving the facility off the island altogether, or even out of the country.

Al-Qaida-linked suspects arrested for Kabul attack

KABUL (AP)—Afghan authorities have arrested the ringleader of a group that staged a brazen attack in Kabul and now believe the assault was coordinated by al-Qaida, an official said Sunday.

Gen. Nahim Baluch, the deputy director of Afghanistan's intelligence service, said that the ringleader—whom he did not name—and several other suspects confessed to their role in the Jan. 18 attack that paralyzed the Afghan capital and left 12 people dead, including seven militants.

"All of them have links with al-Qaida," Baluch said of the suspects.

Afghan officials have previously said that the Haqqani network, a Pakistan-based Taliban faction with close ties to al-Qaida, was behind the assault. Baluch said Sunday that al-Qaida was increasingly directing complex attacks carried out by its close partners.

China rejects claims of Internet hacking attacks

BEIJING (AP)—The Chinese government denied involvement in Internet attacks and defended its online censorship Monday after the United States urged Beijing to investigate complaints of cyber intrusions in a dispute that has added tension to bilateral relations.

China's policy against Internet hacking attacks is transparent and consistent, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said, nearly two weeks after search giant Google Inc. threatened to pull out of the country after finding that the e-mails of activists had been pried into.

"Any accusation that the Chinese government participated in cyber attacks, either in an explicit or indirect way, is groundless and aims to discredit China," an unidentified ministry spokesman said.

"We are firmly opposed to that," the spokesman said, according to a transcript of an interview with the official Xinhua News Agency posted on the ministry's Web site Monday.

The State Council, China's Cabinet, defended the country's regulation of the Internet, saying it is legal and that other parties should not interfere in Beijing's domestic affairs, Xinhua reported.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Melamine-tainted milk products found in China

BEIJING (AP)—Melamine-tainted milk products have been pulled from convenience store shelves in southern China more than a year after hundreds of thousands of children were sickened in a massive milk safety scandal, a government spokeswoman said Monday. Frozen milk products and cartons of milk dating from early 2009 were taken off the shelves after health inspectors tested them and found them positive for the toxic chemical melamine, said Ling Hu, a Guizhou provincial government spokeswoman. Tainted products from three companies, Shandong Zibo Lusaier Dairy, Liaoning Tieling Wuzhou Food and Laoting Kaida Refrigeration were found in more than a dozen convenience stores around the province, Ling said.

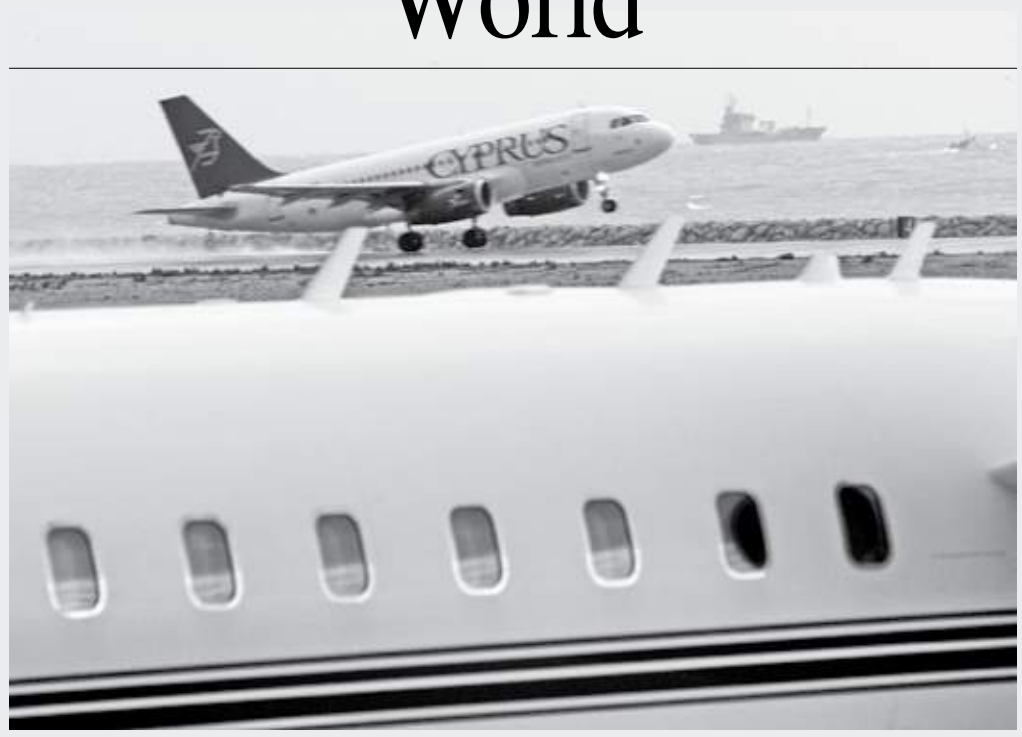
2 jailed, 1 acquited over Malaysian ritual killing

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A Malaysian court Monday sentenced a man and his cousin to 10 years each in prison in the fatal beating of the man's parents during a ritual to expel evil spirits, but acquitted the main defendant by reason of insanity. The three men, in their 20s, were charged with causing the death of the two relatives during a family gathering in an apartment in Kuala Lumpur in October 2008. The victims were beaten with brooms and motorcycle helmets to purge them of evil spirits and cure them of smoking habits and other problems. The victims were supposed to be revived afterward, but they did not survive the beatings, court officials have said. A Kuala Lumpur court found Muhamad Fauzi Abdul Razak and his cousin, Muhammad Nizam Mohamad Ibrahim, guilty of culpable homicide and sentenced them to 10 years in prison, said public prosecutor Aidatul Azura Zainal Abidin. Muhammad Nizam is the son of the deceased.

Officials: Suspected US drone crashes in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A suspected U.S. drone crashed in Pakistan's lawless tribal area near the Afghan border Sunday, a rare mishap for a program Washington has increasingly relied on to kill Taliban and al-Qaida militants, said intelligence officials and a local resident. Local tribesman in North Waziristan were congratulating each other for shooting down the drone, said resident Saudur Rehman. But the Pakistani army rejected similar claims after a drone crashed in neighboring South Waziristan in 2008, saying it was a technical problem. "I saw that the aircraft was coming down and finally crashed in an open area a distance from me," said Rehman, who indicated he heard gunfire just before the crash. "Tribesmen are celebrating and congratulating each other for shooting it down."

World



AP

A passenger jet takes off from Beirut airport as in the background U.N. and Lebanese vessels search for survivors after an Ethiopian Airlines plane crashed in the sea in Beirut, Lebanon, Monday, Jan. 25, 2010.

Ethiopian plane from Lebanon CRASHES, 90 ON BOARD

BEIRUT (AP)—An Ethiopian Airlines plane carrying 90 people crashed into the Mediterranean Sea early Monday just minutes after takeoff from Beirut, Lebanon's transportation minister said.

The cause was not immediately known. But police ruled out terrorism and said the crash was likely weather-related. Beirut has seen heavy rain and lightning since Sunday.

The Boeing 737-800 took off around 2:30 a.m. (7:30 p.m. EST) for the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, said Ghazi Aridi, the public works and transportation minister.

"The weather undoubtedly was very bad," Aridi told reporters at the airport. He added that the plane went down about 2 miles (3.5 kilometers) off the Lebanese coast.

The wife of the French ambassador to Lebanon was on the plane, according to an embassy official who asked that his name not be used because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Helicopters and naval ships were scrambled to find the plane.

Ethiopian Airlines released a statement on its Web site confirming the plane was missing.

"A team is already working on gathering all pertinent information," the statement said. "An investigative team has already been dispatched to the scene and we will release further information as further updates are received."

Calls to the airline were not immediately returned.

Relatives of the passengers began arriving at the airport early Monday, many of them crying and hugging. Officials led them into a VIP area.

The plane was carrying 90 people, including 83 passengers and 7 crew. Aridi identified the passengers as 54 Lebanese, 22 Ethiopians, one Iraqi, one Syrian, one Canadian of Lebanese origin, one Russian of Lebanese origin, a French woman and two Britons of Lebanese origin.

150,000 Haiti quake victims buried, gov't says

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—The truckers filling Haiti's mass graves with bodies reported ever higher numbers: More than 150,000 quake victims have been buried by the government, an official said Sunday.

That doesn't count those still under the debris, carried off by relatives or killed in the outlying quake zone.

"Nobody knows how many bodies are buried in the rubble—200,000? 300,000? Who knows the overall death toll?" said the official, Communications Minister Marie-Laurence Jocelyn Lassegue.

Dealing with the living, meanwhile, a global army of aid workers was getting more food into people's hands, but acknowledged falling short. "We wish we could do more, quicker," said U.N. World Food Program chief Josette Sheeran, visiting Port-au-Prince.

In the Cite Soleil slum, U.S. soldiers and Brazilian U.N. peacekeeping troops distributed food. Lunie Marcelin, 57, said the handouts will help her and six grown children "but it is not enough. We need more."

The Haitian government was urging many of the estimated 600,000 homeless huddled in open areas of Port-au-Prince, a city of 2 million, to look for better shelter with relatives or others in the countryside. Some 200,000 were believed already to have done so, most taking advantage of free government transportation, and others formed a steady stream out of the city on Sunday.

Bin Laden endorses failed attempt to bomb US jet

CAIRO (AP)—Osama bin Laden endorsed the failed attempt to blow up a U.S. airliner on Christmas Day and threatened new attacks against the United States in an audio message released Sunday that appeared aimed at asserting he maintains some direct command over al-Qaida-inspired offshoots.

However, U.S. officials and several researchers who track terrorist groups said there was no indication bin Laden or any of his top lieutenants had anything to do with or even knew in advance of the Christmas plot by a Yemen-based group that is one of several largely independent al-Qaida franchises.

A U.S. State Department spokesman said al-Qaida's core leadership offers such groups strategic guidance but depends on them to carry it out.

"He's trying to continue to appear relevant" by talking up the attempted attack by an affiliate, the spokesman, P.J. Crowley, said.

The one-minute message was explicit in its threat of new attacks. Like the airline plot, bin Laden said they would come in response to America's support for Israel.

Focus

The battle over Hawaii's history

By ALANA SEMUELS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

HALEIWA, Hawaii—In the clear blue water 150 feet down, off Palemano Point on Hawaii's Big Island, Captain Rick Rogers swam along the ocean floor, concentrating on the light white swirls of staghorn reef below him.

As tiny bubbles of air escaped from his tank, his black flippers propelled him above the coral, next to schools of reddish mempache and juicy turquoise uhu fish. The scene was breathtaking, but Rogers didn't care about nature. He was looking for man-made objects only: porcelain plates, pieces of cannons, a sunken iron anchor.

Finding evidence of a shipwreck beneath the ocean would finally prove a theory that Rogers, an amateur historian, has been promoting for decades. He thinks a handful of Spanish and Dutch ships visited Hawaii in the centuries before Captain Cook landed there in 1778. Some Europeans came ashore after shipwrecks, like the characters in "The Swiss Family Robinson," he claims, and eventually integrated into the local society. That early European influence in the 16th and 17th centuries forever changed Hawaiian culture, Rogers says.

"It's cool—you read 'Swiss Family Robinson' and pirate stories, and here it really did happen," said Rogers, a retired commercial airline pilot. "But nobody else is really paying attention to it."

Rogers is following in the footsteps of others with no formal training who have tried to convince scholars that they've stumbled across great historical discoveries, correct or not. They include German businessman Heinrich Schliemann, who boasted he'd found archaeological proof that Troy actually existed, and adventurer Gene Savoy, who said he'd found dozens of Inca settlements in Peru while on the hunt for El Dorado, the fabled city of gold.

To prove his theory, Rogers has spent countless hours poring over ancient maps, tracking down artifacts in the dusty storage rooms of disorganized museums and combing Hawaii's jagged coastline. The one-time Army salvage diver has done much of his work off the Pilialoha, a baby-blue Navy launch he bought in 1986 and loaded with equipment and maps, as well as an assortment of sleeping bags and cushions.

The work is not for fame or money, Rogers said, but rather for the satisfaction of knowing that after all these years, he was right.

He's battled historians and archaeologists—most with many more degrees on their walls than he has—who say he has no proof to back up his theory. They, like the history books, stick to the idea that Cook was the first European to step onto Hawaii, two centuries after Rogers thinks other Europeans landed here. Some politely concede his version of history could have happened, but that there's no proof. Others are more blunt.

No Europeans contributed to Hawaiian culture before Cook, Thomas S. Dye, a professional archaeologist, said bluntly. "I don't think Rick's work is worth a story," he said.

Rogers, who can often be found clambering around his boat barefoot and wearing jeans, a baseball cap and polo shirt, thinks the proof is obvious. He's found maps from as early as 1589 that show islands in Hawaii's shape and location, albeit with different names. Hawaiians had iron when Cook arrived, although they had no evident means with which to produce it, indicating that Europeans had already brought it. Europeans also brought diseases prior to Cook's landing, Rogers says: Remains of a young woman who died in 1664 indicate she had congenital syphilis.

The dive off Palemano Point was a search for irrefutable evidence: a wrecked Spanish galleon. Between 1565 and 1815, Spain ran a main trade route between Manila and Acapulco, passing near Hawaii. Five ships disappeared in that period, and Rogers thinks two of them wrecked off the coast of Hawaii and that some people made it ashore.

Months before the Palemano dive, he had convinced a friend to run a magnetometer along the shore, measuring changes in magnetic substance below the water. To their astonishment, it showed a dark black blot just north of the point, indicating there was something below the sea.

"When I got the data back, it was heart-stopping," Rogers said, his ruddy arms peeking out from a Smithsonian T-shirt, a souvenir from one of the many maritime expeditions he's managed.

Graphic: Los Angeles Times © 2010 MCT

But after peering into nooks in the reef and scouring the ocean floor for as long as their oxygen would allow, Rogers and his fellow divers started to head for the surface with no more evidence than they'd gone down with. There was still hope: Two scuba diving experts were 250 feet below the surface, searching for ruins in water deeper than most divers go.

"A shipwreck would be great proof," said Peter Mills, an anthropologist at the University of Hawaii at Hilo who has read Rogers' work but remains skeptical. "If we come up with a Manila galleon, I would be the first to applaud Rick."

The decades of searching for evidence have caused strains at times for Rogers, who is married with four grown children. Besides having spent plenty of time away from home in his job as a pilot, he's gotten stuck in caves overnight looking for clues and spent countless hours unreachable underwater. At one point, Blossom, his wife of 36 years, suggested they move to Maui and that he give up treasure hunting. They currently live in the hills near an old sugar cane plantation on Oahu.

"He's always on some kind of grand quest," she said.

Though he defended his theory in an in-flight magazine of a now-defunct airline, Rogers has been rejected by most other publishers. In 1999, tired of the snubs, he self-published a book about his search, "Shipwrecks of Hawai'i: A Maritime History of the Big Island," which he hopes to follow with books about wrecks off other Hawaiian islands. He carries with him a 132-slide PowerPoint presentation he'll show to any group willing to give him an hour of its time, which has included archaeological societies and university classes. But he hasn't convinced the scholars.

"It's like I'm looking at UFOs," he said, watching ships pass by in the Haleiwa Bay harbor in northern Oahu, where the Pilialoha is moored. "When I go to conferences and mention this they roll their eyes and say, 'Here he goes again.'"

Rogers always knew he wanted to do something on the sea. Born in Missouri in 1949, he spent hours gazing at paddle boats on the Mississippi River and consuming every pirate movie he could find. As a teen, he dived off the coast of South Carolina, scavenging for plates, guns and swords from the ships of Civil War blockade runners. He served in Vietnam as an Army diver, then ended up in Hawaii.

Rogers stumbled onto this obsession while researching shipwrecks off the coast of Hawaii. Hoping to find promising dive spots, he started reading books and newspaper articles written in the 19th century about wrecks. Some of what he read suggested that Europeans had visited Hawaii before Cook, a theory that had fallen out of favor. So he decided to look for proof.

Some of Rogers' claims about the early Europeans' influence on Hawaiian culture are controversial among Hawaii scholars. For example, Rogers thinks that native statues were inspired by figurines of lions on the front of European ships that passed by in the 17th century. Even helmets and cloaks the Hawaiians wore when Cook arrived could have been modeled on the helmets and capes of the 17th century Europeans, Rogers says.

"It strikes me as racist to suggest that Hawaii was 'advanced' because it might have had contact with non-Polynesians," Dye, the archaeologist, wrote to Rogers.

Rogers doesn't think his theories are racist. His work contributes to Hawaiian history, he says: By matching up shipwrecks with legends, he can accurately date when various chiefs ruled, and possibly explain some of the events contained in the tales.

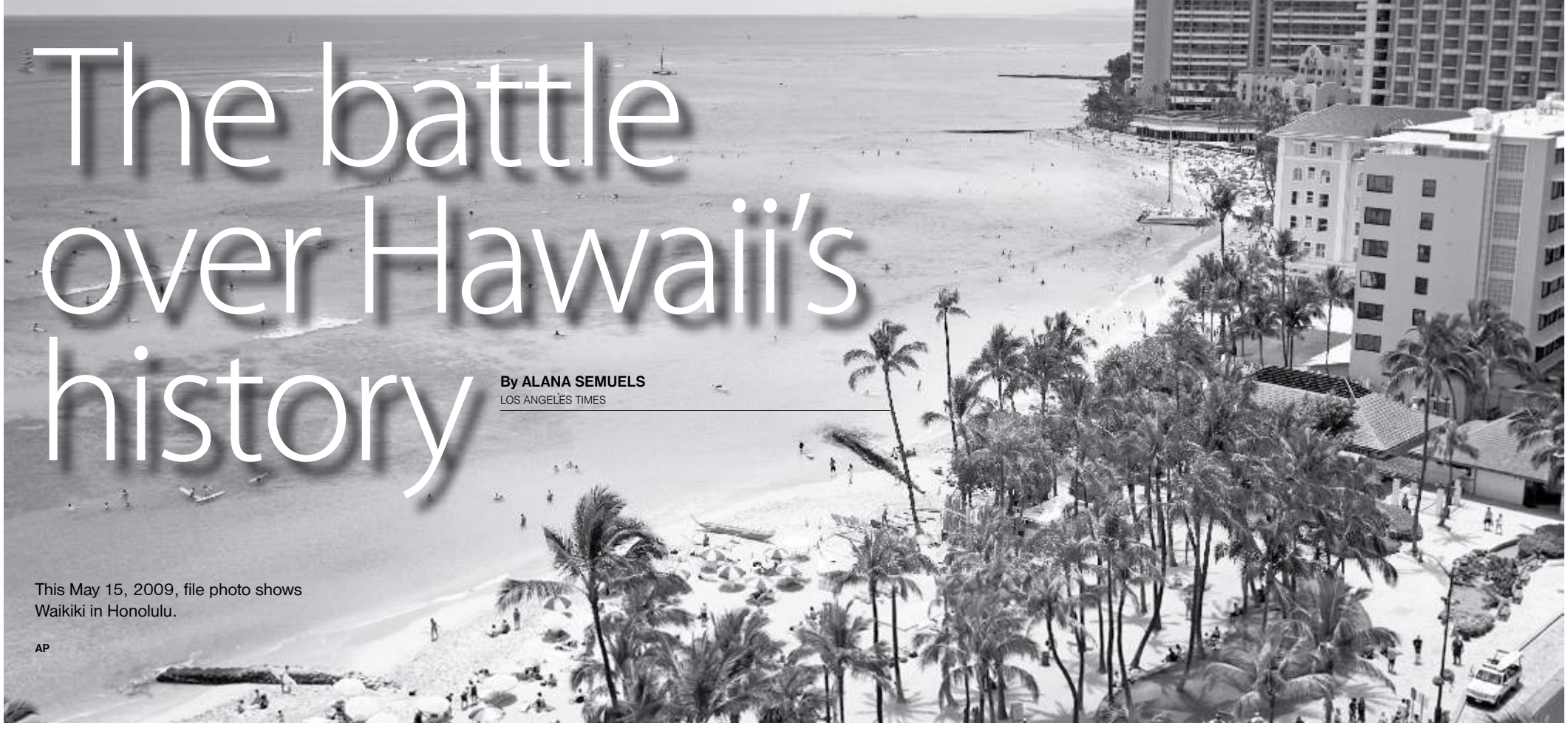
For example, one Hawaiian story talks about seven strange god-men dressed in yellow who came ashore and eventually helped rule the island. Rogers thinks that story is linked to sailors said to have deserted a Dutch ship in 1600. A 19th century missionary found a letter written by one of their shipmates that said eight men had jumped ship "on an island 16 degrees of north latitude, the inhabitants whereof are man-eaters." Rogers thinks that island is Hawaii.

"It's not fairy tales," Rogers said. "All the Hawaiian stuff, even the crazy stuff, has some basis in fact."

Those facts are, for the moment, still slippery.

When Rogers reached the surface of the water off Palemano, he swam to where the deep-sea divers were coming up. Their verdict: thumbs down. They hadn't found anything either.

Rogers had seen a patch of volcanic lava during the dive, which he thinks is from a 19th century eruption that might have buried the ruins. He suspects that reef has grown over the ship since it wrecked centuries ago. The only way to find out for sure would be to drill through the reef, a costly proposal that would probably be opposed by environmentalists. Rogers is now thinking about conducting a DNA test of native Hawaiians to try to prove that they have Dutch or Spanish ancestry from the 1600s.



This May 15, 2009, file photo shows Waikiki in Honolulu.

AP

Overdrive

2010 TUCSON:
Hyundai aims to please drivers, not writers

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

CORNWALL, N.Y.—Hyundai understands what many old-school automotive journalists either fail to comprehend or choose to ignore. To wit: Most people buying passenger cars aren't looking for the fastest times from zero to 60 mph. Nor are they seeking—to use an illogical cliche of automotive journalism—a car that "handles like it is on rails." (Even a train will derail if it takes a curve too fast.)

Instead, most automotive consumers, especially those in need of family transportation, look primarily for affordability, safety, fuel economy, comfort and reliability. If they can get all those things in a vehicle possessed of good looks and personality, and endowed with reasonable highway prowess—for example, it changes lanes quickly and safely—so much the better.

In Los Angeles, I drove the base Tucson GLS with front-wheel drive and a six-speed manual transmission, and the top-of-the-line Tucson Limited with front-wheel drive and a six-speed transmission that can be shifted automatically or manually.

Both the GLS and Limited are available with four-wheel drive, and both share the same 176-horsepower 2.4-liter inline four-cylinder engine. What largely distinguishes them is cosmetic—their trim levels (materials) and other appointments.

Both models demonstrate Hyundai's excellent understanding of the Tucson's intended audiences—young families and empty-nesters. Safety is a major concern of both groups. So both the GLS and Limited come with six air bags, rollover danger sensors, an antilock braking system with electronic brake-force distribution, and electronic stability and traction control as standard equipment.

Families buying "base" or economy models still want vehicles that make them smile. Hyundai understands that. So the same attention to detail found in the Limited—perfect fit and finish, for example—is evident in the GLS.

Again, the differences beyond the standard transmissions offered (six-speed manual in the GLS vs. six-speed automatic/manual in the Limited) rest largely in appointments (a cloth-covered manually adjustable driver's seat in the GLS, compared with a leather six-way power adjustable driver's seat in the Limited).

The trend in the global automobile industry, largely in response to government regulations and a real-world understanding that oil isn't a forever thing—certainly not something that will be forever available at low prices—has been to squeeze more power out of smaller engines, which is what Hyundai has done here. The maximum 176 horsepower offered by Hyundai's new 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine is three horsepower more than what was offered by the 2.7-liter V-6 in the 2009 Tucson.

Driving impressions? I would love to wax eloquently about having driven at extra-legal speeds along Southern California's highways and byways, taking curves at a breathtaking pace, wheels sticking to the road, that sort of thing. But the truth is more prosaic. Both the GLS and Limited behaved quite competently at highway speeds. The exceptionally well-appointed Limited was more fun to sit in during traffic jams, and there were many.

NUTS & BOLTS

THE BOTTOM LINE
The Hyundai Tucson, originally introduced in 2004 as a 2005 model, has been upgraded to a genuine contender with the Ford Escape, Honda CR-V, Nissan Rogue, Subaru Forester and Toyota RAV4. Given the new Tucson's superior value — the measure of quality and overall value per dollar spent — here's betting that it will increase market share at the expense of all of its rivals.

COMPLAINTS
I found none in the day's drive, at least none that would upset most normal drivers, such as young families and empty-nesters in need of a daily urban hauler.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
The dramatically sculpted exterior panels of the new Tucson attract many but repel others. It is an emotional design. Considering rivals' boxy styling, that is a very good thing.

RIDE, ACCELERATION, HANDLING
Ride was comfortable in both versions. Acceleration was competent — quick, safe highway lane changes.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The Hyundai Tucson is a compact, front-engine crossover utility vehicle based on the Hyundai Elantra car platform. It is available with front-wheel drive or all-wheel drive. It has four side doors and a rear hatch.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSIONS
All 2010 Tucson models, of which there are nine styles, use a 2.4-liter, 16-valve inline four-cylinder engine that develops 176 horsepower at 6,000 revolutions per minute and 168 foot-pounds of torque at 4,000 rpm. In the Tucson GLS, that engine is linked to a standard six-speed manual transmission. In the Limited, it gets a six-speed transmission that can be shifted automatically or manually.

CAPACITIES
All Tucson models have seats for five people. Cargo capacity with rear seats up is 25.7 cubic feet. With rear seats folded, it's 56 cubic feet. The fuel tank holds 14.5 gallons of recommended regular gasoline.

MILEAGE
Most Tucson driving was done on the highway, where, yes, I averaged 30 miles per gallon in both the GLS and Limited.

SAFETY
Standard equipment includes six air bags, four-wheel antilock disc brakes (ventilated front/solid rear), electronic brake force distribution, electronic stability and traction control.

PRICE
The 2010 Tucson GLS starts at $18,995 with a dealer's invoice price of $18,296. The Limited starts at $25,845 with a dealer's invoice of $24,544. Both carry an additional $795 transportation charge. Available options include onboard navigation and a panoramic glass roof. Prices are sourced from Hyundai.

Toyota unveils pint-sized hybrid concept car

DETROIT (AP)—Toyota unveiled a new hybrid concept car that is smaller than the Prius and geared toward younger buyers, part of the company's hybrid and alternative-fuel lineup, which it is expanding over the next several years.

The Japanese automaker showed off the FT-CH compact at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit on Monday, and it confirmed it plans to expand the Prius brand from a single vehicle to a family of hybrids.

The FT-CH could be sold under the Prius name, Toyota said.

The plan to broaden the Prius brand is a sign of its success and of buyers' loyalty to them. The Prius, which launched in the U.S. in 2000, has long been America's top-selling hybrid and was the best-selling vehicle overall in Japan last year.

"The strategy is still taking shape and obviously it will require additional models to qualify as a family," said Jim Lentz, president of Toyota Motor Sales USA, a division of Toyota Motor Corp.

Hybrids run on batteries and gasoline.

Priuses would be marketed together to save on advertising costs, but there could be up to three models. It costs more than $100 million to launch a model name and win awareness with buyers, he said.

"It's much more efficient to market 300,000 or 400,000 vehicles under one brand name than it is to spend the dollars to market two or three model names," he said.

Toyota said the two-door FT-CH, 22 inches (55 centimeters) shorter than the Prius, is lighter and more fuel efficient and its styling, inspired by 8-bit video games popular during the 1980s, is intended to appeal to younger buyers.

AP
In this Jan. 11, 2010 file photo, the Toyota FT-CH compact hybrid concept car is introduced at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

The FT-CH, as a concept vehicle, has no official sales or production schedule.

Toyota said it plans to sell 1 million hybrids worldwide each year by launching eight new models over the next few years. Toyota sold 530,000 hybrids worldwide in 2009.

It also plans to offer plug-in hybrids and all-electric cars starting in model-year 2012 and hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles in 2015. Toyota has not decided whether the all-electric cars will be marketed as Priuses.

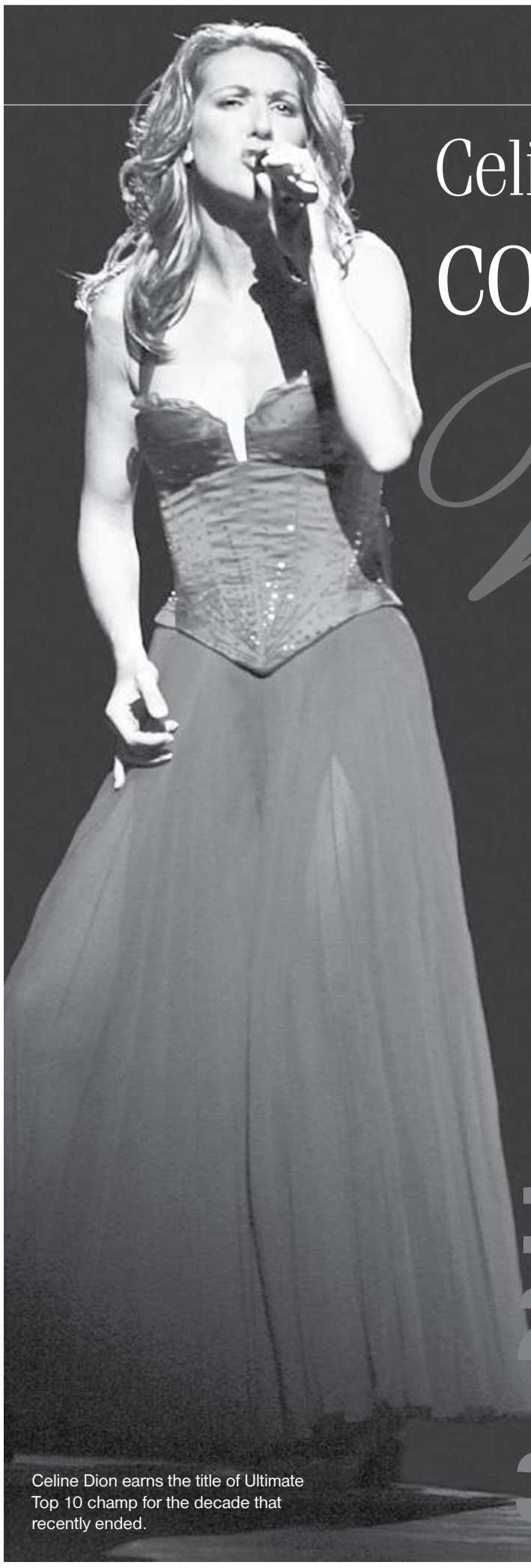
Toyota recently launched a global demonstration program of its plug-in hybrid technology. Starting early this year, Toyota is sending 150 plug-in Priuses with lithium-ion batteries—less bulky than the nickel-metal hydride batteries that currently power hybrids—to the U.S. for testing.

The automaker also said Monday it will send more than 100 hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles to universities, companies and government agencies in California and New York to publicize hydrogen fuel-cell technology.

Yoshi Inaba, president and chief operating officer of Toyota Motor North America, told reporters Monday he was optimistic about 2010 sales after a dismal 2009 for the automaker and the industry.

Inaba expects U.S. sales industry-wide to rise to about 11.5 million this year after dropping to 10.4 million in 2009, and more growth is expected in 2011 and 2012. He predicted that Toyota's market share in the U.S.—17 percent last year—will be steady or rise.

Life & Style



Celine Dion earns the title of Ultimate Top 10 champ for the decade that recently ended.

Celine Dion tops Ultimate Top 10 album, concert sales for decade

By RANDY LEWIS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

What's the formula for success in the rapidly shifting music business? Roll the dice, then stay put.

That combination put Celine Dion atop the ultimate edition of our annual Ultimate Top 10 list, a ranking that combines artists' album sales revenue with their take at the box office.

Dion earned the title of Ultimate Top 10 champ for the decade that recently ended, thanks in large part to the money she piled up from her five-year engagement at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, where audiences are used to paying big bucks for big stars. Her gamble to perform in one place for an extended period paid off big for the Canadian pop diva.

The Ultimate Top 10 isn't meant to be the final word on artists' finances. With merchandising, product endorsements, song placements in movies and TV shows, ring tones, Web site subscriptions and other income sources, musicians today have seemingly limitless ways to bring in money. But by combining two of the biggest revenue sources, the Ultimate Top 10 is a good indicator of which artists fans are spending the most money on.

The overall decade results suggest there's still considerable long-term value in allowing artists time to build extensive catalogs and encouraging them to support those recordings by touring regularly. The Ultimate Top 10 of the Decade:

Celine Dion, $747.9 million

Dion pulled in $522.2 million in concert-ticket sales for the decade. Adding $225.7 million worth of album sales during those same 10 years, she trumped all comers.

Kenny Chesney, $742 million

Close behind Dion was this road warrior, who toured hard and promoted records the old-fashioned way year in and year out. His total includes $455.6 million in concert ticket sales and $286.4 million in album revenue.

Dave Matthews Band, $737.4 million

Matthews' decade concert total of $529.1 million put him first on the list of top North American live music attractions of the decade, as calculated by the concert-tracking publication Pollstar. The band posted $208.3 million in album sales.

The Beatles, $627.3 million

Although the quartet disbanded 30 years before the decade began, the Beatles still managed to generate $392.3 million from sales of 30.2 million albums (using an average of $13 per album). We folded in the individual box office figures racked up by ex-Beatle Paul McCartney ($221.4 million) and Ringo Starr ($13.6 million), given that their concert audiences consist in large part of Beatles fans. The Fab Four also logged the single best-selling album of the decade, the "1" hits collection, with 11.5 million copies. And counting.

U2, $609.7 million

The Irish quartet brought in $391 million at the box office and $218.7 million in album sales.

Toby Keith, $591.9 million

The second of three country acts in the Top 10, the Oklahoma singer-songwriter logged $273.8 million on the concert trail, $318.1 million from album sales.

Bruce Springsteen, $588.3 million

On the road, both with the E Street Band and his various non-E Street tours, the Boss brought in $444.3 million. His album take: $144 million.

The Rolling Stones, $569.6 million

The Stones also benefited heavily from touring, earning $426.9 million at the box office in addition to $142.7 million in album sales.

Tim McGraw, $550.7 million

Strictly as a solo act, the country singer-songwriter ranks No. 14 on the list. But he toured several times with his wife, Faith Hill, during the decade. California being a community property state, we are awarding him half the revenue those outings generated. So his total includes $322 million in album sales, $133.7 million from his own tours and $95 million for his half of the McGraw-Hill shows.

Britney Spears, $494.3 million

Despite a rocky decade personally and professionally, Spears pulled in $195.7 million at the box office and sold $298.6 million worth of albums for the 10-year period.

The decade's top album seller was Eminem, the rapper who posted $419 million from sales of 32.2 million albums, according to Nielsen SoundScan. But because he toured sporadically, he was able to add only $40.8 million to his Ultimate Top 10 total, which places him at No. 14; he is the sole hip-hop artist in the Top 20.

Looking at 2009 alone, the 14th annual Ultimate Top 10 title goes to U2. During the year, the band posted $137.3 million ($123 million box office, $14.3 million albums), a bit better than last year's winner, Madonna, who finished on top with $120.1 million. Springsteen follows U2 with $102 million ($94.5 million box office, $7.5 million in albums).

The year's biggest album seller finished at No. 3 overall: In the wake of his death, Michael Jackson posted total album sales of just under $100 million, without any revenue from the series of comeback concerts he was scheduled to give in London. (Those dates wouldn't have counted toward the Ultimate Top 10 since Pollstar data come from North American concert tour figures.)

Spears ended the year at No. 4, with $82.5 million in concert ticket sales and $7 million in album revenue. The Elton John/Billy Joel tour tallied $88 million at the box office, with no corresponding revenue from albums that finished among the year's top 200 sellers from the duo, placing the piano men at No. 5. John generated an additional $14.2 million during the year from solo performances.

The remainder of the 2009 Ultimate Top 10 shakes out as follows: No. 6: AC/DC with $83.8 million ($77.9 million in concert tickets, $5.9 million in album sales); No. 7: Taylor Swift with $83.2 million ($25.5 million at the box office, $57.7 million in album sales); No. 8: Chesney at $81 million ($71.1 million in concert, $9.9 million in album sales); No. 9: the Jonas Brothers with $77.9 million ($69.8 million in concert revenue, $8.1 million in album sales), and No. 10: the Dave Matthews Band with $69.8 million ($56.9 million in concert tickets, $12.9 million in album sales).

Mr. Christian? No, but Paul Bettany plays them in movies

By ROGER MOORE
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

It's always odd to see one of the cinema's few self-described atheists in religious garb. But something about Paul Bettany says monk ("The Reckoning," "The Da Vinci Code") or archangel ("Legion," which opens Friday).

"Were I playing Prometheus, I wouldn't necessarily feel the need to believe in Zeus," he jokes. "But I don't know why these fellows keep coming my way. It isn't in any way planned. And there's a wide gap between an avenging angel and Charles Darwin."

In many cities this January, Bettany will be starring in movies opposite himself. In "Legion," he's the archangel Michael, come to Earth to help folks in a remote diner survive an assault from God's avenging angels. And in "Creation," he's Charles Darwin, in love with a devoutly religious wife (Jennifer Connelly, Mrs. Bettany) but working out his Theory of Evolution and his relationship with her and his faith as he does.

"When I'm making a movie as Charles Darwin, I'm sitting in my trailer, hankering to run around shooting vampires. And when I'm battling vampires (as in "Priest," which opens this fall) I think, 'It would be awfully nice to be in something nice and quiet with a lot of talking in it.'

"I'm quite shallow that way."

So just as his turn as the dashing politician Lord Melbourne, favorite of Queen Victoria, in "The Young Victoria," leaves theaters, he dons wings and takes on "Legion."

"It's a fun thing to play because he's an angel who has the courage of his convictions. He defies his boss. And he's got quite the boss to defy, doesn't he?

"I do a movie like 'Legion' because I want to see an audience's popcorn jump up in the air! I loved seeing those movies growing up. 'Dawn of the Dead' sticks with me. What a thrill, this siege with just a handful of people, trapped in a shopping mall, battling an onslaught of zombies. 'Legion' is just like that, without zombies. The CGI (computer-generated imagery) guys put wings on me, and once you've got wings, the rest is easy!"

And the Darwin movie?

"'Creation' is a very unusual look at the life of a hero of mine. There haven't been many films about Darwin. But Darwin is not the controversial figure in England he seems to be in America. He's a national treasure. I mean, he's been on the back of the 10 pound note!"

The always formidable co-star of "Master and Commander" earned some of the best reviews of his career when "Creation" played in Britain. The Guardian newspaper declared that "Paul Bettany gives a career-best performance as Darwin." But Bettany is more than happy to jolt viewers' popcorn as a warrior priest or archangel, given the chance.

"People go to see 'Romeo and Juliet' to weep over dead people on stage at the end and thank God you're alive ...You go see '2012' to see the world destroyed, but you still get to leave the theater, get in a cab, and go home and feel relief at that vicarious thrill. I love providing that thrill, when I can."

AP

Actor Paul Bettany arrives at the premiere of the feature film "Legion" in Los Angeles on Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010.

'Avatar' tops box office for sixth-straight week

LOS ANGELES (AP)—James Cameron's "Avatar" is on a course to sink "Titanic" at the box office.

No. 1 for the sixth-straight weekend with $36 million, the 20th Century Fox sci-fi spectacle lifted its domestic total to $552.8 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. "Avatar" raised its worldwide total to $1.841 billion. That's $2 million shy of first place behind Cameron's last movie, the 1997 shipwreck epic "Titanic," at $1.843 billion.

"It defies all superlatives," said Chris Aronson, head of distribution for Fox.

The studio said "Avatar" has hit $1.29 billion in international ticket sales, passing the $1.24 billion mark set by "Titanic." The saga set on the alien world of Pandora is also en route to overtake "Titanic" in domestic sales. After 37 days in theaters, "Avatar" soared past "The Dark Knight" on Saturday to become the second highest grossing film.

"We're witnessing box office history," said Paul Dergarabedian, box office analyst for Hollywood.com. "We're watching all of these big records fall, and there doesn't seem to be an end in sight. 'Avatar' is dominating at a time where it has no big summer blockbusters to compete with it. It's perfectly poised to keep breaking all these records."

"Avatar" is also positioned to win acclaim during awards season. While the computer-assisted performances didn't earn any honors at Saturday's Screen Actors Guild Awards, it captured the best drama and director trophies at last week's Golden Globes and is considered a likely best-picture front runner when Oscar nominations are announced Feb. 2.

1. ***"Avatar,"*** $36 million.
2. ***"Legion,"*** $18.2 million.
2. ***"The Book of Eli,"*** $17 million.
3. ***"Tooth Fairy,"*** $14.5 million.
5. ***"The Lovely Bones,"*** $8.8 million.
6. ***"Sherlock Holmes,"*** $7.1 million.
7. ***"Extraordinary Measures,"*** $7 million.
8. ***"Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel,"*** $6.5 million.
9. ***"It's Complicated,"*** $6.2 million.
10. ***"The Spy Next Door,"*** $4.8 million.

Screen Gems' apocalyptic thriller "Legion," featuring Paul Bettany as an Armageddon-fighting fallen angel, debuted behind "Avatar" at No. 2 with $18.2 million. Fox's family fantasy comedy "Tooth Fairy," starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson as a hockey player who spreads his wings as a magical deity, took flight in the No. 4 spot with $14.5 million.

Warner Bros. grabbed the No. 3 position with "The Book of Eli" at $17 million in its second week, despite three other films debuting in wide release this weekend. The post-apocalyptic action flick stars Denzel Washington as a traveling prophet who battles a villainous gang leader played by Gary Oldman while protecting the last known Bible.

The medical drama "Extraordinary Measures," the first film from new distributor CBS Films, opened with a disappointing $7 million in the No. 7 position. The film features Harrison Ford and Brendan Fraser as a doctor and businessman who collaborate to develop a drug that will treat a rare genetic disorder affecting children.

"It did well in middle America," said Steven Friedlander, head of distribution for CBS Films. "This is not a shoot-'em-up or fantasy film. It's the true story of people doing courageous things, and it's building good word of mouth. This is the kind of movie that plays well to a family friendly crowd who doesn't need to see the movie the weekend it opens."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI

$5.50 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$5.50 All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.50 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$5.50 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$5.50 Military with Valid I.D.

TUESDAY BARGAIN $5.50 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com

dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS

For Friday, January 22nd through Thursday, January 28th
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

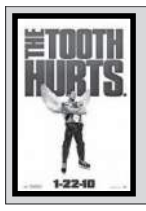
NOW SHOWING

Up In The Air

Friday		4:10	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:30	

George Clooney, Vera Farmiga
Comedy Drama • Rated R

Synopsis
Juno's Jason Reitman heads into corporate America territory once again with this adaptation of Walter Kirn's novel Up in the Air for Montecito Pictures. The plot surrounds a human resource administrator (George Clooney) whose life up in the friendly skies becomes his only world as he works to reach his one-millionth frequent flyer mile.



The Tooth Fairy

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Dwayne Johnson, Ashley Judd
Comedy Drama • Rated PG

Synopsis
20th Century Fox presents this family comedy following a star hockey player's (Dwayne Johnson) temporary transformation into a full-fledged tooth fairy as penalty for discouraging a young fan. Director Michael Lembeck (The Santa Clause 2 and 3) helms the family comedy, based on a screenplay by veteran comedic writers Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel, with additional writing provided by Joshua Sternin and Jeffrey Ventimilia. Ashley Judd and Julie Andrews co-star in the Blumhouse and Mayhem Pictures production.

I Love You, Goodbye

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:55
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:55
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Derek Ramsay, Angelica Panganiban
Romance, Drama • Rated NR

Synopsis
Gary (Derek Ramsay) and Lizelle (Angelica Panganiban) are lovers for 4 years. One day in the search for a better life and future they decide to work together in a cruise ship and both attend an interview test on the ship. During the test both are required to jump into the sea with Lizelle getting scared and failing the test, making her ineligible to work on the cruise ship. Gary then proceeds to work on the cruise ship leaving Lizelle behind without saying goodbye to her. Gary's unexpected departure makes Lizelle really sad and this also marks the end of their relationship.

The Book of Eli

Friday		4:20	7:10	9:40
Saturday	1:30	4:20	7:10	9:40
Sunday	1:30	4:20	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:10	

Denzel Washington, Gary Oldman
Action • Rated R

The Spy Next Door

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:10	4:30	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:20	

Jackie Chan, George Lopez
Comedy • Rated PG

Alvin & The Chipmunks: The Sqeakquel

Friday		4:15	7:25	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:25	9:30
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:25	

Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler
Children, Family • Rated PG

Avatar

Friday		3:55	6:55	10:00
Saturday	12:50	3:55	6:55	10:00
Sunday	12:50	3:55	6:55	
Mon thru Thurs		3:55	6:55	

Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

No more karaoke machines for Laura Izibor

By MOIRA E. MCLAUGHLIN
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

THE WASHINGTON POST.
Laura Izibor parlayed a karaoke machine and her brothers' second-rate stereo into a recording that got her into a national song contest in Dublin at 15. Now 22, Izibor has completed her first full-length album, "Let the Truth Be Told," and her songs have been featured on network TV.

With a karaoke machine, an old stereo, a couple of tapes and a bag of rice as a shaker, Laura Izibor embarked on a journey that would eventually land her on the Atlantic Records label.

"It's still kind of crazy to me because I don't know how it really happened, to be honest with you," the 22-year-old says from her childhood home outside Dublin.

Izibor's musical story began when she was 13, when a drama teacher made her sing in front of the class. "I sang and tried my best, and the class was like, `You can really sing,' " she recalls. From there, she played Judas in the school musical "Jesus Christ Superstar"; sang Whitney Houston's "Where Do Broken Hearts Go" in the talent show ("a cappella," she says with a laugh); and started taking piano lessons from a friend during lunch. "Some of the other girls were out smoking and pulling up their skirts for the boys," Izibor says. "I wasn't a nerd or a dork. But I wasn't cool."

Then came the karaoke machine and her brothers' second-rate stereo, which Izibor used to record her first song, layering harmony upon harmony so thick that the finished product sounded faint and blurry. No matter. The recording gained her entrance into a national song contest in Dublin when she was 15.

"I'm not going to win," Izibor recalls telling her sister. "Everybody else is rock, and I don't sound like them."

But win she did, and with the $14,000 in prize money she bought a piano, a 16-track recording unit, a keyboard and a microphone. She also met her manager at the competition, who told her, "Don't ever send a demo (tape) like that to anyone again."

They made a new demo, and record companies from the United States, the United Kingdom and Germany began calling. At 16, Izibor flew to the States to sing for 10 labels. She eventually signed with Atlantic and completed her first full-length album, "Let the Truth Be Told," last year.

Izibor's music can be described as R&B soul in the vein of Alicia Keys. There is a wisdom and maturity in her sound, which she says has been influenced by Stevie Wonder, Candi Staton and Roberta Flack. Her songs have been featured on "Grey's Anatomy" and "Private Practice," and can be heard in the upcoming movie "When in Rome."

"I never wanted to be famous," Izibor says. "That's a really crazy thing to say when you're doing what I'm doing. I've always had a fear of being super-super famous."

Super fame may not be imminent, but Izibor hopes that another album is. The songs on her first album were written when she was a teenager. Now she has much more material and is open to new ideas. "It's nice to be able to explore different feelings or emotions and sounds," she says.

Judge cuts $2M penalty in song-sharing case

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A federal judge on Friday drastically reduced a nearly $2 million verdict against a woman found guilty last year of sharing 24 songs over the Internet, calling the jury's penalty "monstrous and shocking."

U.S. District Judge Michael Davis reduced the $1.92 million penalty a jury imposed against Jammie Thomas-Rasset to $2,250 per song, or about $54,000.

"The need for deterrence cannot justify a $2 million verdict for stealing and illegally distributing 24 songs for the sole purpose of obtaining free music," Davis wrote.

Davis also denied Thomas-Rasset's request for a new trial. He gave the Recording Industry Association of America seven days to either accept the smaller penalty or to ask for another trial to set new damages.

Cara Duckworth, spokeswoman for the RIAA, said the group's attorneys were still analyzing the ruling and would have no immediate comment.

Reached on her cell phone, Thomas-Rasset said the ruling was positive but that her attorneys are planning an attempt to get it lowered further. "Whether it's $2 million or $54,000, I'm a mom with four kids and one income and we're not exactly rolling in that kind of dough right now," she said.

German rock band Scorpions to end career

BERLIN (AP)—The German rock band Scorpions is bringing down the curtain on a career spanning more than four decades.

The band, known for its early 1990s hit "Wind of Change" among others, said on its Web site Sunday that "we agree we have reached the end of the road."

It said it would end its career with a final album—"Sting In The Tail," to be released in March—and a tour that will start in Germany in May and take it across the world "over the next few years."

Guitarist Rudolf Schenker founded the band in Hannover in 1965. Singer Klaus Meine joined a few years later. Both men are 61.

AP

In this Feb. 21, 2009 file photo, the German rock band The Scorpions arrives for the Echo 2009 music award ceremony at Berlin, Germany.

'Hurt Locker' wins Producers Guild Award

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Hurt Locker" scored the top film award from the Producers Guild of America, building new momentum for the Iraq war drama in the expanded Oscar race for best picture.

The film about a risk-taking bomb disposal technician beat out such celebrated nominees as "Avatar," ''Inglourious Basterds" and "Up in the Air" Sunday night.

"The Hurt Locker" also bested the films "Star Trek," ''District 9," ''An Education," ''Invictus," ''Up" and "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' By Sapphire" at the Producer Guild Awards in Hollywood.

The awards were the latest kudofest in the run-up to the Academy Awards in March.

Big farewell audience for Conan

NEW YORK (AP) — Preliminary Nielsen ratings suggest that Conan O'Brien won a hefty audience for his final hour hosting "The Tonight Show."

O'Brien scored a 7.0 rating for his farewell appearance on NBC Friday, compared to a 2.5 rating for CBS' "Late Show with David Letterman" and, on ABC, a 2.8 for "Nightline" followed by 1.3 for "Jimmy Kimmel Live!"

These early figures, which reflect viewership in roughly 70 percent of the U.S., can't be reliably translated into audience numbers. An accurate viewer count is expected later this week.

O'Brien exited NBC after tumultuous negotiations that resulted in a severance deal signed last Thursday. His departure ends nearly eight low-rated months at "The Tonight Show," and, before that, 16 years hosting "Late Night."

Agent: 'Guys and Dolls' star Jean Simmons dies

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—A representative of Jean Simmons confirms that the "Guys and Dolls" and "Spartacus" actress has died of lung cancer.

Agent Judy Page told The Associated Press on Sunday that Simmons died at her home in Santa Monica on Friday, surrounded by her family. Simmons was 88.

A classically trained actress who started appearing in films at 14, Simmons used her beauty and charm in virtually every genre and played leading lady to virtually every major leading man of the mid-century.

She sang opposite Marlon Brando in 1955's "Guys and Dolls," played Ophelia opposite Laurence Olivier in 1948 Best Picture Oscar winner "Hamlet" and appeared alongside Kirk Douglas in 1960's "Spartacus."

Simmons won an Emmy for her role in the 1980s miniseries "The Thorn Birds."

Fawcett estate sues producer over alleged misdeeds

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Farrah Fawcett's estate sued a producer who collaborated with the actress, claiming he botched a documentary project and misused her company's money.

The lawsuit claims Craig J. Nevius exploited Fawcett and improperly revealed privileged information about the actress to the media, including that her cancer had returned. The suit also claims Nevius turned in an unworkable first cut of a documentary on Fawcett's fight with cancer and he may have embezzled money from the actress' company, Sweetened By Risk.

The lawsuit states NBC, which aired the television special "Farrah's Story," had to rework the footage with help from Fawcett's longtime companion, Ryan O'Neal. The edits were being made until shortly before the special aired, the lawsuit states.

"These allegations lack merit and are a pathetic attempt to try to intimidate and further injure Mr. Nevius," said attorney Miles J. Feldman.

AP

This Aug. 13, 2006 file photo shows Farrah Fawcett on the red carpet before Comedy Central's "Roast of William Shatner," in Los Angeles.

Nevius sued O'Neal and Fawcett's friend Alana Stewart over "Farrah's Story" last year. The case is still pending.

That case, filed the day the special was aired for Fawcett's friends and reporters, claims O'Neal, Stewart and Fawcett's business manager Richard B. Francis, interfered with Nevius' role in "Farrah's Story."

Friday's lawsuit was filed by Francis, who is a trustee of Fawcett's estate, and Sweetened By Risk LLC.

The lawsuit states Nevius knew Fawcett for about five years before he June 25 death. He worked on a reality TV series featuring the actress called "Chasing Farrah" and was producing the documentary that eventually aired on NBC. The lawsuit claims Fawcett cut ties to him in early 2009 and he became jealous of O'Neal and Stewart.

The lawsuit filed Friday contends Nevius turned in a first cut of "Farrah's Story" that was deemed "wholly unacceptable" by the actress. She then turned creative control of the film over to O'Neal, the suit states.

The complaint states Francis believes Nevius "embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars" from Fawcett's company. It states Nevius has refused to allow Sweetened by Risk's financial records.

Fawcett's "Charlie's Angels" co-star, Kate Jackson, said Friday evening she was shocked at the lawsuit's allegations against Nevius. Jackson had been critical of the producer in the past, but said Friday those comments were misguided.

She said it was her understanding that Fawcett had creative control of the early version of the documentary on her cancer fight.

Teen embarrassments turn into fond memories later

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I had to respond to "Blushing in San Francisco" (Nov. 21), the 11-year-old girl who's embarrassed because her mother sings and dances in the mall. I was that mother a few years ago.

My daughter and I shopped in trendy stores where the music was really loud, and when she saw me bob my head and move to the music, she would shake her head "no." I'd do it again -- just to torture her. As she tried on clothes, she would pop out and say, "Have you been dancing again? This is a no-dancing zone!" We laugh about it now.

When I teach, I tell my students what I did. They tell me unanimously that they would die if I were their mom -- to which I respond that it's my job to make them miserable.

As the Bee Gees sang, "You should be daaaancin', yeah!"

STILL DANCING IN GRANITE CITY, ILL.

DEAR STILL DANCING: Your letter was among hundreds I received pointing out that "Blushing in San Francisco's" dilemma is universal. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My husband is a contractor, and his office is in our home. He enjoys playing music while he works, and we often hear him singing happily along.

One evening when my daughter was 11, she had some friends over and was trying her best to ignore the fact that her dad was singing while he worked, and hoping her friends wouldn't notice. All went well until Shania Twain came on and he started singing along to "Man! I Feel Like a Woman!"

We all laughed hysterically, and it's still one of our favorite memories. My daughter saw that her dad could laugh at himself, and that her friends enjoyed the humor without losing respect for him.

Not to take oneself too seriously was the lesson learned. It's one we all need reminding about occasionally.

STILL LAUGHING IN SAN JOSE

DEAR ABBY: When my daughter was about 8, I was walking her to the door of her school and thought I'd have some fun with her, so I started acting like a cross between the Hunchback of Notre Dame, Dracula and the Mummy. When I asked if I was embarrassing her, she responded: "Why would I be embarrassed? You're the one acting silly!" I immediately stopped because she was right. What she understood at her tender age was that you can only be responsible for your own actions.

MOM IN HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA

DEAR ABBY: My advice to "Blushing" is to enjoy her mother while she has her. When I was in my teens, my dad mortified me with his dancing whenever we went to the grocery store. While pushing his shopping cart, Dad would bebop up and down the aisles. As an adolescent, it embarrassed me to no end.

I look back now and regard my father's dancing fondly—mainly because I have two delightful small children who inherited their grandfather's love of dancing. When I see them "perform," I know my dad is looking down from heaven and chuckling, too.

PROUD MOM IN GEORGIA

DEAR ABBY: I was embarrassed every time I went to the mall with my mom because she'd usually burst into show tunes before we got out of the parking lot.

I am now 40, and I sing in parking lots, too. I finally understand that the most valuable lesson my mother ever taught me was to let that song in my heart out and not care what anybody else thinks. It's empowering, and "Blushing" should give it a try.

SECOND-GENERATION SINGER

DEAR SINGER: One of these days, try it in a parking structure. The acoustics are as good as any you'll find in a recording studio.

LA-LA IN L.A. aka DEAR ABBY

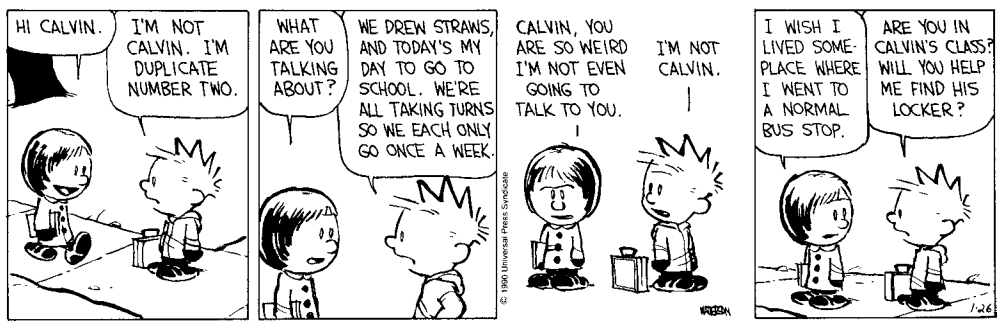
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HI CALVIN.
I'M NOT CALVIN. I'M DUPLICATE NUMBER TWO.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WE DREW STRAWS, AND TODAY'S MY DAY TO GO TO SCHOOL. WE'RE ALL TAKING TURNS SO WE EACH ONLY GO ONCE A WEEK.
CALVIN, YOU ARE SO WEIRD I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO TALK TO YOU.
I'M NOT CALVIN.
I WISH I LIVED SOME-PLACE WHERE I WENT TO A NORMAL BUS STOP.
ARE YOU IN CALVIN'S CLASS? WILL YOU HELP ME FIND HIS LOCKER?
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
1-26

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'LL DO MY OWN SUDOKU, THANK YOU!
JIM DAVIS 1-26
© 2010 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
www.garfield.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick

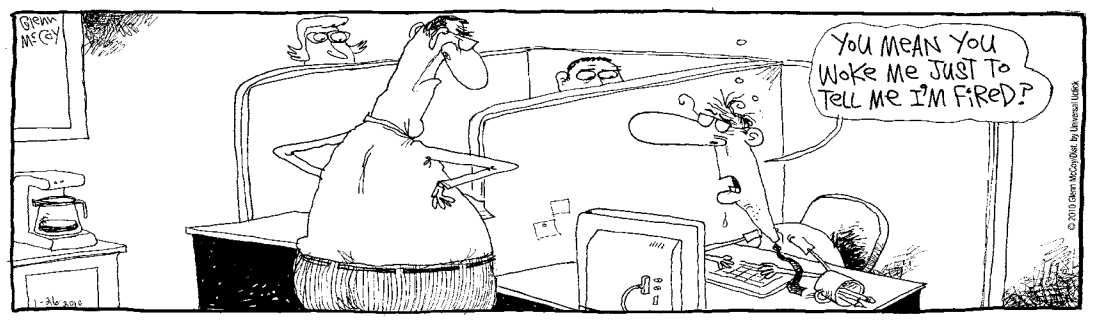
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

RUMBLE RUMBLE
AAAH!! GARBAGE DAY!
SO? WHAT?
I WAS GOING TO WAKE UP EARLY AND DO IT.
OH NO! OH NO! YOU'VE GOT TO CATCH THE TRUCK!
WAIT! TOMMY! GARY! WAIT! THERE'S BABY DIAPERS IN HERE! THEY'LL EAT THROUGH THE BAG!
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
1-26

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

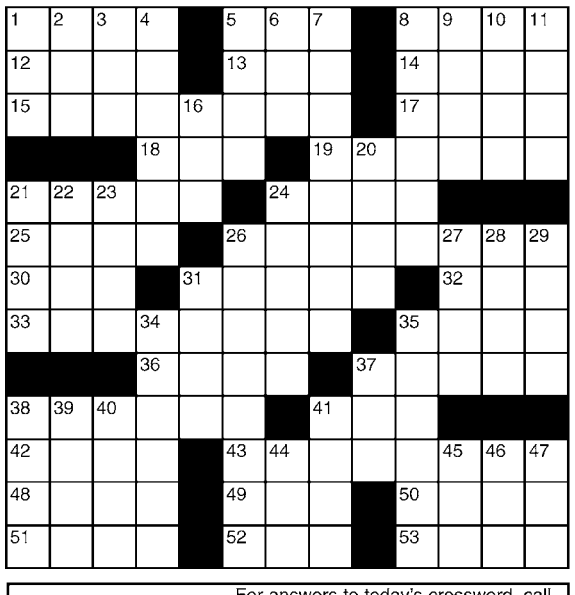
ACROSS
1 Snow-bank creator
5 Blond shade
8 Recedes
12 Helper
13 Extinct bird
14 — con-tendere
15 Cleared out, as by hoeing
17 Let fall
18 Pester for payment
19 Turn white
21 Let off the hook?
24 Authentic
25 "Wind in the Willows" character
26 Like some grapes
30 Pismire
31 Dazzles
32 Luau offering
33 Unthink-ing
35 Sturdy fabric
36 Mature
37 Retains
38 Shoddily made
41 Torched
42 Bread unit
43 Unnec-essary
48 Vote off the island
49 — Jima
50 Vicinity
51 Quarry
52 Coffee break hour
53 Black plus white

DOWN
1 Dog's foot
2 Recline
3 Praise in verse
4 Joined as one
5 "So be it"
6 "May-day!"
7 They're washed-up
8 Ultimate goal
9 "— Free"
10 United nations
11 Frosh who gradu-ated
16 Drag along
20 Young fellows
21 Hexag-onal state
22 Zilch
23 — de foie gras
24 Don't just toss
26 "Hurry!"
27 Duel tool
28 Daytime TV entry
29 Sermon-izers' subjects
31 Misstep
34 In need of caulking, maybe
35 Flier's awkward feeling
37 Tease
38 Hoofbeat sound
39 Session with a shrink
40 Facility
41 Ponce de —
44 Ram's mate
45 Blunder
46 Vast expanse
47 Put into words

Solution time: 21 mins.

F	I	B	■	S	O	L	A	R	■	J	U	S	
R	N	A	■	C	R	E	T	E	■	U	T	E	
A	S	H	T	A	B	U	L	A	■	S	A	X	
■	■	■	A	L	I	■	A	P	A	T	H	Y	
M	O	P	P	E	T	■	S	E	R	A	■	■	
O	H	O	■	D	A	M	■	D	E	B	T	S	
S	I	R	S	■	L	A	B	■	S	O	A	K	
T	O	T	E	M	■	G	E	L	■	U	P	I	
■	■	A	V	E	S	■	R	E	S	T	E	D	
U	N	B	E	N	T	■	A	G	O	■	■	■	
S	I	L	■	S	A	N	T	A	B	A	B	Y	
E	N	E	■	C	R	U	E	T	■	T	E	E	
R	E	S	■	H	E	S	S	E	■	M	E	W	

Yesterday's answer 1-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kirk Franklin, 40; Ellen DeGeneres, 52; Eddie Van Halen, 55; Lucinda Williams, 57

Happy Birthday: This is a great year to explore new avenues and develop new concepts. An interesting turn of events will result in added responsibility but will also bring you great joy. Love, commitment and finishing what needs to be done will all highlight your year. Relationships will stabilize because romance is in the stars. Your numbers are 6, 11, 14, 25, 30, 43, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Explore your creative side and trust in your ability instead of thinking everyone else can do a better job. Someone or something will continuously try to stop you or stand in your way today. Persevere. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): An ulterior motive may lead you in the wrong direction. A promotion or changing from one job to another will be tempting and should be considered, even if someone is encouraging you to stay put. Don't let someone's bragging make you feel inferior. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't give up on your goals. Home, family and getting things in order must take top priority. An emotional issue you have with someone will escalate into something you cannot resolve if you don't act fast. Moderation will be key. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Make some financial moves that will help you save at tax time. Dig deep for information that will help you make the best choices. A partnership will make you think about your future. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Focus on the people you know can help you get ahead. Work hard and contribute in a positive manner and you will avoid arguments that can develop into ongoing problems. Say little but do the best job possible. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't count on anyone doing your work for you if you want it done properly. An emotional issue regarding your personal or professional status may be an issue if you allow someone to pressure you. Use your imagination. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll be pulled in different directions. It's important that you don't give in to what others want. Follow your dreams and venture down your own path if you want to get ahead. If you speak up, you will be heard. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Keep an open mind or you will make a costly mistake. Don't argue with a loved one but don't give in to something you don't believe is right either. A short trip may be necessary to clear up a misunderstanding. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Get contracts or financial agreements in writing. Emotions will be unstable when it comes to a personal relationship. It's time to make a change regarding how you earn your living. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): A change within one of your friendships will take place due to a money matter that arises. Don't be too quick to trade someone or something in for a newer model because you think it will help you get ahead. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Travel or taking on a new lifestyle or interest will do you good. A change may be required in order to fulfill a dream. A promise made will ensure you get to spend time with someone special. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Check out the importance of each and every situation you face before you make a decision about what to do first. There is a sequence that must be followed if you want to come out unscathed. It will be easy to lose a friend if you aren't cautious about pointing out blame. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a curious observer and you love a challenge. You are creative, sensitive and intuitively guided when it comes to personal and financial matters.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3	6		9				
	2							
7		4	5					1
1	7		8		4			2
				2				
4			7		3		6	9
8					9	2		6
							5	
				5		4	7	

Difficulty Level ★★ 1/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	8	3	4	6	9	1	7	5
9	1	5	7	3	8	4	2	6
4	7	6	2	5	1	8	9	3
1	2	7	6	4	5	9	3	8
3	6	4	8	9	2	5	1	7
5	9	8	3	1	7	6	4	2
8	3	9	5	7	4	2	6	1
7	4	2	1	8	6	3	5	9
6	5	1	9	2	3	7	8	4

Difficulty Level ★ 1/25

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SYNTHETIC DIAMONDS **Solution: 5 letters**

M	M	S	G	H	S	P	Y	R	O	L	Y	S	I	S
L	A	C	I	N	A	H	C	E	M	E	T	A	L	N
A	T	N	O	S	I	R	I	Y	E	L	L	O	W	G
C	E	E	U	N	E	H	D	N	N	W	O	R	B	I
I	R	C	L	F	D	H	S	N	E	T	E	Z	I	S
T	I	Y	O	O	A	U	T	I	E	U	L	B	C	E
P	A	N	S	L	I	C	C	N	L	S	O	L	I	D
O	L	O	T	T	O	V	T	T	Y	O	S	S	N	R
H	G	R	R	A	A	R	A	U	O	S	P	N	O	I
P	N	I	C	K	E	L	S	R	R	R	L	I	T	L
H	R	E	S	A	L	H	S	A	T	I	O	A	A	L
T	S	E	T	M	N	E	E	R	G	L	N	R	L	B
W	P	I	N	K	O	L	S	H	O	W	U	G	P	I
N	N	Ⓢ	Ⓣ	Ⓤ	Ⓒ	T	T	L	A	M	R	E	H	T
G	S	E	S	A	H	P	A	R	T	I	C	L	E	S

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 1/26

Atoms, Blue, Brown, Clear, Colors, Conductor, Crystals, Cuts, Designs, Drill Bits, Grains, Green, Hardness, Heat, HPHT, Iron, Laser, Light, Manufacturing, Material, Mechanical, Metal, Nickel, Optical, Particles, Phases, Pink, Platonic, Polishing, Pyrolysis, Shine, Show, Size, Solid, Synthesis, Test, Thermal, Tools, Treating, Ultraviolet, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: Limousines

Treasury 7 Send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each. U.S. funds only) for the first volume. $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480 Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Oceanview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars preferably, Toyota, Nissan, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Suzuki & Isuzu. Must bee 2000 & above model. We pay cash! Please call 287-7676.

ENTERTAINMENT

USSP-Thirsty Nights Pool Competition. FREE Entry-every Thurs. & Sun. New Yr. Dart Shoot Out. Free-Entry every Wed. Nights. Cash & prizes will be awarded to each winner.

USSP-LIVE RECORDING CD OFFER Every Mon. & Tues. Nights. Starting Jan 25, 2010 Cheap & Affordable price package. Call/Txt Rose @ 233-1984/286-7653 for more details

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $25.00
Call: 233-9889 or 483-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

Vacancy Announcement

SAIPAN ICE HAS AN IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR AN
ACCOUNTANT

APPLY IN PERSON AT HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR EMAIL RESUME TO: SPNICE@PTICOM.COM

WHATZIT Solution: Sign up

"My wish is to celebrate my Sweet 16th birthday with my friends and family!"
Saipan Tribune
share the power of a wish℠
MAKE-A-WISH®
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm, M-F daily

Monir Hossain
P.O. Box 503235
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 285-8832 / 288-0873

Pro Se,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MONIR HASSAIN, Petitioner,	**FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0013**
vs.	
MACCY AUGUSTINO HOSSAIN, Respondent.	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 503235 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should by in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 15th day of January, 2010.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date:	Wednesday, January 6, 2010	Closing Date:	Until Filled		
JVA NO.	**Position Title**	**Positions**	**Salary**	**Contract**	**Location**
10-006	Deputy Director for Water Wastewater	[One Position]	Negotiable; Ungraded	Two-year	Water Wastewater, Saipan
Opening Date:	Friday, January 22, 2010	**Closing Date:**	Friday, February, 5, 2010		
JVA NO.	**Position Title**	**Positions**	**Salary**	**Contract**	**Location**
*10-0011	Accounting Specialist	[One Position]	$21,104-$25.852	Two-year	Accounting Office, Saipan

** This is a re-announcement of JVA 09-030. All applicants of 09-030 will be included in 10-011.*

For more information about the position(s) being advertised, please stop by the Human Resources Office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220. U.S.A. Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 • Fax (670) 235-5131

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

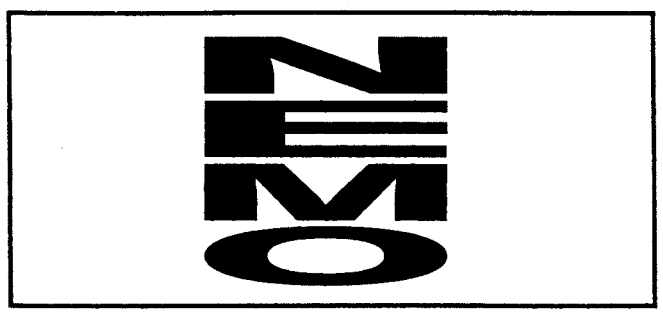
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



© 2010 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

Saints beat Vikings in OT, reach 1st Super Bowl

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A 40-yard field goal in overtime by a little-known kicker could become as famous as jambalaya in these parts.

The New Orleans Saints, a team with no home and an uncertain future five years ago, are heading for their first Super Bowl. By battering Brett Favre and beating the Minnesota Vikings 31-28 Sunday, they set off celebrations on Bourbon Street that locals never could have imagined in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"This is for everybody in this city," said coach Sean Payton, the architect of the Saints' turnaround. "This stadium used to have holes in it and used to be wet. It's not wet anymore. This is for the city of New Orleans."

And it came courtesy of Garrett Hartley and the Aints—who surely ain't the Aints anymore.

"In reality, we had to lean on each other in order to survive and in order to get where we are now," quarterback Drew Brees said. "The city is on its way to recovery, and in a lot of ways has come back better than ever. We've used the strength and resiliency of our fans to go out and play every Sunday and play with the confidence that we can do it, that we can achieve everything we've set out to achieve."

Favre threw away Minnesota's best chance to win, tossing an interception deep in New Orleans territory in the closing seconds of regulation. Then the Saints won the coin toss and ended it on Hartley's kick 4:45 into OT.

"Just helping my team get to Miami," he said. "Just doing my part."

A team of nomads after Katrina ravaged its city and the Superdome, overcame a slew of mistakes in the biggest game the Big Easy has ever seen.

Forget the paper bag masks and that long history of losing that started in 1967. Moments after Hartley's kick, they were toasting their hometown winners in the French Quarter and making plans for South Florida.

The Saints (15-3) will meet Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts (16-2) in the Super Bowl in two weeks in Miami. The Colts opened as 4-point favorites.

"Brett prepared us, but now we've got another challenge in Peyton," safety Darren Sharper said.

And in the Superdome, once a squalid refuge after Katrina, they boogied in the aisles as confetti covered the field.

"It's a moment I've been waiting for for a long time and obviously we're not done yet," said Brees, Payton's hand-picked QB for the Saints' renaissance.

It's the first time the top seeds in each conference made the big game since the 1993 season.

There were nine fumbles and two interceptions, and the biggest mistake belonged to Favre. Flushed from the pocket in the final minute, he seemed to have room to run to set up a field goal. But hampered by a left leg injured in the third quarter, he threw cross-field and was intercepted by Tracy Porter at the 22.

That finished off Minnesota's chance for its first Super Bowl trip in 33 years—and opportunity to win it for the first time after four defeats. The Vikings have lost five straight NFC title games.

"I've felt better," said Favre, who looked every bit his 40 years. "It was a physical game. A lot of hits. You win that and you sure feel a lot better."

New Orleans won the coin toss, Brees guided it to the Minnesota 22 after converting a fourth-and-1 on Pierre Thomas' leap over the line, and Hartley—suspended at the start of the season for using a banned stimulant—split the uprights.

"It was as loud as I have ever heard it in the dome," Brees added. "It feels so good to know we have given our fans an NFC championship. We have another championship to go after in two weeks."

It was anything but easy for the Saints, in only their second conference championship game; they lost at Chicago three years ago.

They had to withstand yet one more comeback by Favre, who returned to the NFL with the Vikings (13-5) after another brief retirement. He was alternately spectacular and pedestrian Sunday, finally betrayed by his gambling style and, perhaps, an aging body.

Porter's pick sent it into overtime, the third time an NFC title game has needed extra time and the second in three seasons. Two years ago, Favre's interception in OT set up a field goal that sent the Giants past the Packers and into the Super Bowl.

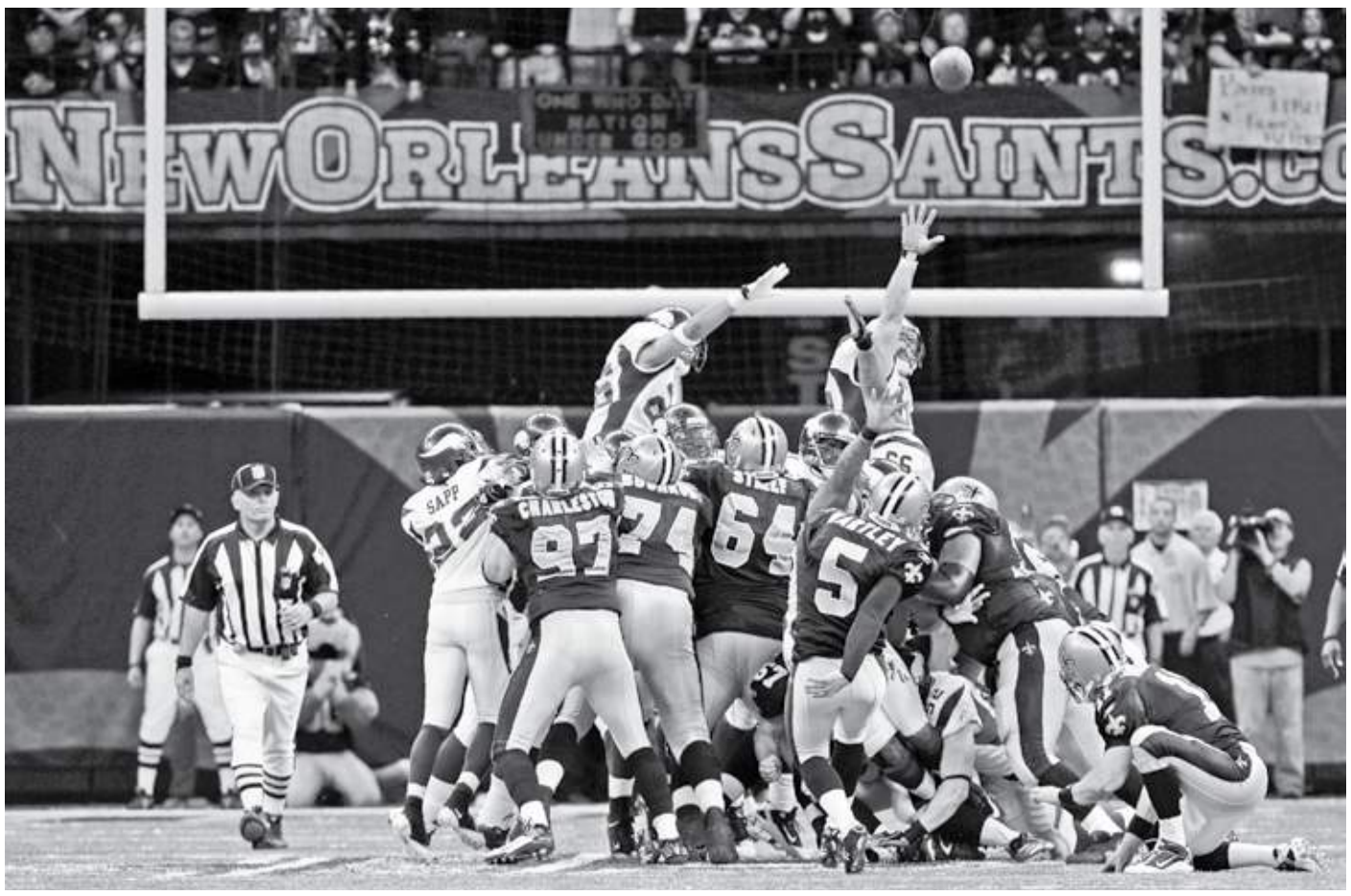
The Saints can only hope they have the same happy ending as New York did back then.

"Yeah," said Reggie Bush, who scored a touchdown. "One more step."

The seesaw game saw All-Pro Adrian Peterson score three touchdowns for Minnesota and Saints running back Pierre Thomas get two. The Vikings handily won the possession and yardage battles—Peterson rushed for 122 yards and Minnesota gained 475 overall. But the Vikings were undone by five turnovers, including three fumbles.

"We really gave those guys the game," said Peterson, who peeked at the rousing celebrations on the Superdome floor. "Too many turnovers. It's eating me up inside."

The seemingly indestructible Favre was hurt on one of those turnovers, on a combination hit by Bobby McCray and Remi Ayodele while throwing his first interception. And, despite being the closest Viking to the ball, he was helpless in the scramble to recover Percy Harvin's fumble that seemingly turned the game in New Orleans' favor early in the fourth period.



AP

New Orleans Saints kicker Garrett Hartley (5) kicks the game-winning field goal during overtime in the NFC Championship NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings in New Orleans, Sunday, Jan. 24, 2010.

Colts 30, Jets 17

At Indianapolis, this is perfect for the Indianapolis Colts: They have Peyton Manning and they're back in the Super Bowl.

The four-time MVP threw three touchdown passes and the Colts rallied from an 11-point, first-half deficit to beat the New York Jets 30-17 Sunday in the AFC championship game.

The Colts (16-2) are now headed back to the NFL title game for the second time in four years and their fourth Super Bowl in franchise history. Better yet, they're heading back to their lucky city—Miami, where they've played all four of those games and won there twice.

"I thought we just kept our mouths shut and went to work this week," Manning said.

The big-talking Jets, and their equally big-talking coach, Rex Ryan, were all the incentive Indy needed Sunday.

A month ago, when the New Yorkers last came to town, Indianapolis coach Jim Caldwell pulled his starters in the third quarter and gave up a chance at a perfect season to focus on a Super Bowl run. Fans booed throughout the fourth quarter and when the Colts left the field, and some spent the past month complaining publicly.

That's over now.

Manning stayed on the field for every Colts play and instead of blowing a lead, the Colts rallied behind their leader.

This time, fans counted down the final seconds while streamers and confetti hung in the air, flash bulbs popped incessantly and when the official announcement was made, roars cascaded from the rafters.

"We talked about being patient against these guys," Manning said. "We knew it would be a four-quarter game."

The Colts will face New Orleans, which made its first Super Bowl after a 31-28 overtime win over Minnesota, in two weeks. Manning will play in the same venue where he beat Chicago in the rain and won the Super Bowl MVP award three years ago. Manning will be going against Saints quarterback Drew Brees, a family friend.

Just as special was having the Colts career rushing leader, Edgerrin James, present the team with the Lamar Hunt Trophy, which goes to the AFC champs. He never made it to the Super Bowl with the Colts, though team owner Jim Irsay gave James a ring when the Colts beat the Bears.

Players savored every precious moment. Receiver Pierre Garcon, who had 11 catches for 153 yards, both career-highs, and the go-ahead score raised a Haitian flag to honor his family and friends who still live there. Garcon and others remained on the field long after the official celebration, mingling family, friends and fans as the Colts redeemed themselves for this season's first loss.

"We've been here before, we had seven comeback wins this year. I think the guys were a little rattled at first, I think we took their best shot, but we came back," linebacker Gary Brackett said. "I think we did a great job of being the hunters and imposing our will today."

Manning finished 26 of 39 for 377 yards. He became the first player in league history with seven 300-yard postseason games. That broke a tie with Kurt Warner and Joe Montana.

The Jets' magical run ended with their first road loss in six games.

New York (11-8) built a 17-6 lead and took advantage of trick plays. But the Jets lost running back Shonn Greene with a rib injury in the second half, and rookie quarterback Mark Sanchez was shut out over the final two quarters.

"Today wasn't our day. There's no question," said Ryan, who declared his Jets the Super Bowl favorites before the playoffs. "You have to give credit to the Colts. Obviously they're the cream of the crop right now."

Jim Caldwell became only the fifth rookie coach to reach the Super Bowl. Only two others—San Francisco's George Seifert and Don McCafferty, of the Baltimore Colts - have won it.

But Caldwell does have Manning, who drove the Colts right through New York's No. 1 ranked defense with his uncanny precision. He kept dropping passes right over the fingertips of defenders, and the frustrated Jets couldn't stop him.

"You can have great man coverage, but that ball is right where it needs to be," safety Jim Leonhard said.

Garcon was one beneficiary. The other was rookie Austin Collie, who had a career-best seven catches for 123 yards, his first 100-yard day as a pro. And the Jets allowed three TD passes for the first time all season.

After falling behind late in the first half, Manning responded. He took the Colts 80 yards in four plays, hooking up three straight times with Collie, including the 16-yard TD pass that made it 17-13 with 1:13 to go in the half.

Manning was just getting started.

The next time he got the ball, he took the Colts 57 yards in eight plays, connecting with Garcon in the back corner of the end zone to make it 20-17 with 8:03 left in the third quarter.

"The guys have always been a very confident bunch and they do a great job of hanging in there," Caldwell said. "Peyton had just an outstanding game. He's one of those guys that can adjust to different situations. ... A real champion."

Manning still wasn't finished. His 15-yard TD pass to Dallas Clark midway through the fourth quarter made it 27-17 and Kelvin Hayden's late interception ended the Jets' last hope.

It sure didn't look like it would end this way during a scoreless the first quarter.

The Colts uncharacteristically struggled to get first downs, and settled for field goals instead of scoring touchdowns.

New York also changed tactics, creating its big plays through the air.

Sanchez, the fourth rookie quarterback to lead his team to the conference title game and lose, used a beautiful play-action fake to fool rookie cornerback Jacob Lacey. Lacey, who started in place of the injured Jerraud Powers, was burned for an 80-yard TD pass by Braylon Edwards giving the Jets a 7-3 lead.

After the Colts cut it to 7-6, Jets receiver Brad Smith lined up in the TigerCat formation and connected with Jerricho Cotchery for a 45-yard pass to the Colts 12. It was Smith's first career completion out of an offensive formation. Three plays later, Sanchez barely avoided a sack and found Dustin Keller for a 9-yard TD pass to give the Jets a 14-6 lead with 4:53 to go in the half.

The Jets made it 17-6 after Joseph Addai's fumble set up Jay Feely's 48-yard field goal.

That's when Manning and the Colts took over—and closed it out.

Venus Williams to meet Li Na in quarterfinals

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Venus Williams advanced to the Australian Open quarterfinals for the seventh time to set up a meeting with Li Na, who helped make more Chinese history by reaching the last eight.

The sixth-seeded Williams beat Francesca Schiavone 3-6, 6-2, 6-1 on Monday, recovering after dropping a set to the Italian for the first time since 2003.

Li upset No. 4-seeded Caroline Wozniacki 6-4, 6-3 in a 98-minute match featuring 12 service breaks. Li held when it counted: saving three break-point chances against the U.S. Open finalist in an 11-minute opening game; and serving it out on her second match point.

Li's progress means there's two Chinese players in the quarterfinals of the same major for the first time. Zheng Jie, the 2008 Wimbledon semifinalist, is into the quarters on the other half of the draw.

"Nothing better," Li said, smiling, "Yeah, I mean good for us."

In men's fourth-round matches, 2008 champion Novak Djokovic beat Poland's Lukasz Kubot 6-1, 6-2, 7-5 and No. 6 Nikolay Davydenko held off 2009 semifinalist Fernando Verdasco 6-2, 7-5, 4-6, 6-7 (5), 6-3 to extend his winning streak to 13.

Kubot, who finished last season at No. 101, got a walkover into the second week when No. 20 Mikhail Youzhny withdrew from their third-round match.

Davydenko was only two points from finishing off Verdasco in four sets but the Spaniard rallied to win the last four points of the tiebreaker and force a fifth set.

Davydenko fended off three break points and held to open the fifth set, then broke 9th-seeded Verdasco's serve in a crucial sixth game. He finished it off in just under four hours.

Verdasco lost to eventual champion Rafael Nadal in the semifinals here last year in the longest match in the tournament's history. He didn't help himself against Davydenko, with 20 double-faults and 81 unforced errors.

Davydenko has beaten both No. 1 Roger Federer and No. 2 Nadal in runs to his last two titles.

"I just read last year I am ice man, now I am very hot," the 28-year-old Davydenko, who has never reached the final of a major, said of his recent surge.

A regular on the outside courts through the earlier stages of the tournament, Davydenko joked that he thought it was the first time he'd won a center court match.

Federer was playing Monday night against Australia's Lleyton Hewitt on Rod Laver Arena. Federer has reached the semifinals or better here every year since winning the 2004 title.

Li already has reached the quarterfinals at Wimbledon and went out at that stage in the last U.S. Open. She beat Williams in the quarterfinals at the Beijing Olympics in their only previous meeting, but she wasn't drawing too much from that.

"It was good experience for me, for my tennis, also," Li said. "But I just want to forget, because I will play her again. So I didn't want always think about the last match. I want to look forward."

Williams has won seven singles majors and reached the final of the Australian Open in '03, losing to her younger sister Serena, in her best run at Melbourne Park.

The Williams are on track to meet in the semifinals, with defending champion and No. 1-ranked Serena playing in a fourth-round match later Monday against Australia's Sam Stosur. Serena has won four of her 11 Grand Slam singles titles in Australia.

Venus struggled to hold serve in the first set against Schiavone but was in command by the end, when she won the last six games after the 29-year-old broke her to open the third set.

"Francesca was playing so well, she was so tenacious, she has so much speed," Williams said. "I had a little bit of a slow start."

Williams' win extended a streak in which at least one American woman has reached the Australian Open quarterfinals every year since 1977.

Four days after an angry outburst over the rules relating to replays and line calls, Andy Roddick got a crucial call in his favor in a fourth-round win over Fernando Gonzalez on Sunday night.

Roddick held off the 2007 Australian Open finalist 6-3, 3-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 to reach the quarters for the sixth time in eight years. He'll meet No. 14 Marin Cilic of Croatia, who ousted U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro in five sets.

Roddick bucked the trend on a day of upsets that also resulted in fourth-round exits for two of the top women: No. 2 Dinara Safina, last year's runner-up, and No. 3 Svetlana Kuznetsova, the reigning French Open champion.

"I got a little lucky, but sometimes it's better to be lucky than good," he said.

Seventh-seeded Roddick hit a contentious, dipping forehand to close the fourth set on his fifth set point.

The ball was called out and Gonzalez didn't take a swing. Roddick challenged the call immediately, winning it and leveling the match at 2-all.

Gonzalez argued that he could have had a play on the ball but chair umpire Enric Molina declined to replay the point.

The episode had a similar feel to the end of Roddick's second-round win over Brazilian Thomasz Bellucci, when he angrily objected to a decision that went against him on a match point.

"I know he was pretty upset about the challenge and that rule no one seems to know about," Roddick said of Gonzalez. "I can certainly sympathize with his frustrations."

Roddick said the knee problem that sidelined him at the end of last season was bothering him a bit, but it didn't affect the game.

Safina had to retire because of the recurrence of a back injury when she was serving at 5-4 down and 30-40 against Maria Kirilenko, who had upset 2008 champion Maria Sharapova in the first round.

Kirilenko next plays Zheng. Justine Henin, in her first Grand Slam tournament in two years, beat fellow Belgian Yanina Wickmayer and next plays Nadia Petrova.

Nadal advanced to a quarterfinal against No. 5 Andy Murray by beating Ivo Karlovic 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4. Murray beat American John Isner 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-2.

Turkoglu's 2 free throws lift Raptors over Lakers

AP

Toronto Raptors guard Jarrett Jack, right, celebrates with forward Chris Bosh and Sonny Weems, left, after the Raptors defeated the Los Angeles Lakers 106-105 in an NBA basketball game in Toronto on Sunday, Jan. 24, 2010.

TORONTO (AP)—Hedo Turkoglu made two free throws with 1.2 seconds left as the Toronto Raptors beat the Los Angeles Lakers 106-105 on Sunday night

Andrea Bargnani scored 22 points, Chris Bosh and Jarrett Jack each had 18 and Marco Belinelli added 15 for the Raptors, who are 6-0 at home this season against Western Conference opponents.

Kobe Bryant missed a last-second jump shot and fell one assist shy of his first triple-double of the season, scoring 27 points and grabbing 16 rebounds. Bryant, who shot 11 for 24, has 16 career triple-doubles.

Bryant took an inbound pass from Luke Walton but his fadeaway jumper rimmed out as the Lakers lost for the second time in three games.

Pau Gasol scored 22 points, Andrew Bynum had 21 and Jordan Farmar 17 for the Lakers.

Bosh also had 13 rebounds for Toronto, which has won four of six.

The Lakers didn't trail through the first three quarters but gave up the lead in the fourth on a Bargnani 3-pointer with 7:33 left, putting Toronto up 93-90. Farmar answered with a 3 of his own, but a Belinelli 3 from the corner at 6:26 restored Toronto's lead, making it 98-95.

The Raptors weren't in front for long, with baskets from Gasol and Bryant putting the Lakers back on top, 99-98, with 4:57 left. Bargnani made two free throws to give the Raptors a 100-99 edge with 4:34 left, but Bynum and Farmar countered for Los Angeles, making it 103-100 with 2:24 to go.

Toronto wasn't done, with Bargnani making the free throw after he was fouled on a reverse layup to make it 105-104 with 1:16 remaining. Bryant and Bargnani both missed jumpers before Belinelli knocked a loose ball out of play with 15 seconds remaining and 3 seconds on the shot clock. Bryant's quick jumper bounced off the rim and Bosh grabbed the rebound, giving Toronto one final chance with 11 seconds to play.

The Raptors gave the ball to Turkoglu, who was fouled by Gasol with 1.2 seconds left. Turkoglu, who went 6 for 6 from the line, made both free throws, setting up the dramatic finish.

Mavericks 128, Knicks 78

At New York, Drew Gooden stepped into the lineup with 15 points and 18 rebounds as Dallas coasted to the biggest win in franchise history while missing two starters.

Dirk Nowitzki and Jason Terry each scored 20 points, and the Mavericks, who led by as much as 53, put on a shooting clinic in beating the Knicks for the eighth straight time. Dallas shot 58 percent from the field, was 12 of 22 from beyond the arc and 16 of 17 from the foul line.

David Lee had 11 points and 14 rebounds as the Knicks lost their sixth in eight games.

Clippers 92, Wizards 78

At Washington, Chris Kaman scored 20 points, and Marcus Camby had 12 points and 19 rebounds as Los Angeles snapped an eight-game road skid to surpass last season's win total.

Baron Davis had 11 points and 11 assists, and Rasual Butler scored 14 points for the Clippers (20-23), who won despite a 3-of-16 performance from 3-point range.

Antawn Jamison had 20 points and 10 rebounds, and Brendan Haywood added 18 points and 12 rebounds for the Wizards, who have lost three straight.

Watson, Prugh tied after 4 rounds at Hope Classic

LA QUINTA, California (AP)—Bubba Watson double-bogeyed the final hole of the fourth round at the Bob Hope Classic, dropping him back into a tie with PGA Tour rookie Alex Prugh at 23-under 265 on Sunday heading into the finale in the five-round event.

Watson finished with 3-under 69 to match Prugh (70) at 23-under 265. Bill Haas and Tim Clark were a stroke back after 66s, Joe Ogilvie (68) followed at 21 under, and Mike Weir (67) was in a group at 20 under.

Watson was in position to take a solid lead into his chase for his first PGA Tour victory Monday in the event that was pushed back a day after rain washed out play Thursday. Instead, Watson dropped back with his disappointing finish on the Nicklaus Private course, allowing Prugh to sneak back atop the board.

Watson, Prugh, Haas and Clark have never won on the PGA Tour, but all have a golden opportunity in a famed event featuring none of the tour's top 35 players this year. Haas' father, Jay, won the Hope Classic in 1988.

Watson was in position to take a solid lead into his chase for his first PGA Tour victory Monday in the event that was pushed back a day after rain washed out play Thursday in the four-course event. Instead, he dropped back with his disappointing finish on the Nicklaus Private course, allowing Prugh to sneak back atop the board.

"Tomorrow is going to be a tough day no matter if I had the lead, was tied for the lead, or one back, or five back," Watson said. "Tomorrow is going to be a fun day. This is what we live for. The more chances I get to win, maybe I'll get one to luckily fall in and win one."

All but a handful of amateurs and celebrities stuck around to play the fourth rounds Sunday — and second-round leader Watson surged back ahead of Prugh with six birdies in a round that was steady all the way until the 18th hole.

Prugh, 25, making his third PGA Tour start, missed an easy putt to bogey his final hole on the SilverRock course, finishing another self-described unremarkable round.

"The way things were going the first three days, where the scores were going, I definitely didn't think 2 under would keep me in it," Prugh said.

4 CROWNED

From Page 28

In the upper half of the bracket, Tsukagoshi shut out Anna Calvert, 6-0, downed Malika Miyawaki in the quarterfinals, and defeated Min Sik Kim in the semis, 6-0.

Min Sik Kim settled for third place after beating Miyawaki in the consolation match, 6-3.

In the Level 1-open division finals, Seung Jae won over Phalai Frink, 6-3. Jae, which drew a bye in the first round, opened his title bid with a 6-3 triumph over Min Sik Kim and gained a finals seat after thumping Mimi Sakano, 6-3.

Frink took the other finals berth, following a 6-4 win against Ami Haruja. Frink also won over Miyakawi, 6-1, and John Song, 6-4, in the earlier rounds. Song saved third place after beating Sakano in the consolation draw, 6-1.

The second female player to win a championship trophy was Carol Lee, who slipped past Kwang Jae in the finals of Level 2 division, 7-5.

Lee moved a step closer to the title after edging Greg Song in the semis, 8-4. Kwang Jae scored a similar 8-4 victory over Amy Taylor in the other semis pairing.

Besides beating Kwang Jae, Lee also won over Tiffany Madlambayan, 8-3 and Peter Jin, 8-2. Kwang Jae's victims include Julian Briosos, 8-3 and Satoshi Ohtsu, 8-1.

The third placer in Level 2 has yet to be decided, as games were rained-out on Sunday. Four players are still in contention for the third place trophy.

In Level 3 finals, Mikayla Lopez posted an impressive 8-0 win over Joel Jang. Lopez made it to the finals first after whipping Amami Sakano in the semis, 8-0. Jang followed suit after an 8-2 triumph over Alex Park, 8-2.

Lopez's wins in the early rounds were courtesy of Ilia Corella (via walkover) and Emily Jones, 8-1. Jang downed Luther Lizama in the first round, 8-3, and then won via walkover against Kevin Rhee.

Lopez was scheduled to meet Daniel Park in Level 4 finals on Sunday, but the match was reset to this weekend due to time constraints. Park and Lopez arranged their title duel after beating Angelo Jones, 8-4, and Carl Dela Cruz, 8-2, respectively, in the semifinals.

The Park-Lopez finals tiff, along with preliminary singles matches in the adults division will be played on Saturday at the AMP and Fiesta tennis courts.

The adults singles will have separate competitions for men's and women's divisions in four categories, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, and open.

The 2010 Saipan Tennis Challenge is organized by Fiesta tennis instructor Peter Loyola and is being supported by major sponsors Tan Siu Lin Foundation, IT&E, AMS Typhoon Shutters, and Shirley's Coffee Shop and secondary sponsors Triple J Motors, Quality Distributors, PSG Professional Corp., Izuka family, MEARS Company, and Pacific Islands Club.

EBISUYA

From Page 28

champion Diamond Ali'i, 102-97. The Saipan Fresh-Diamond tiff was first played on Thursday with the former on top, 67-60, with 5:15 left in the third period.

When the match resumed, Saipan Fresh picked up where it left off, increasing the lead to double digits at the end of the third period, 82-72, and never trailed en route to a five-point win.

Lerio Pagarao top-scored for Saipan Fresh's first win in the playoffs and second against the same team, firing 31 points. He nailed 11 points in the third period, stepping up on offense in the absence of Ryan Sanciangco, who scored 10 early markers in that canto, but did not play in the continuation of the game.

Francis Rebuyon also helped Saipan Fresh's cause, making 12 of his 14 markers in the second half, while Estolas had his usual contribution, adding 15. Two other Saipan Fresh players scored in double figures for the team's balance offense, as Sanciangco and Gil Gapor finished with 11 markers apiece.

Diamond, which led most of the time in the first half, lost its grip on the driver's seat in the second half, as only Elmer Esdrelon canned more than three field goals in the last 20 minutes of the match.

Esdrelon had a game-high 33 points and Diamond's next best scorer, Brendon Talania, chipped in 16. However, Talania made only a field goal in the third and five points in the fourth quarter. J.R. Barrios was only the third Diamond player to score in double figures with 11, but was limited to a field goal each in the last two quarters.

Diamond must win its next game against the loser of the IT&E-Noni Saipan match to keep the former's finals bid alive. Saipan Fresh will face the winner of the IT&E-Noni Saipan tiff for the first finals berth.

Masters

Ebisuya 98 – Opone 22, Casabuena 16, Moises 10, Fernandez 9, Abedes 8, Rebuyon 7, Santos 7, Buenabajo 4, Abuan 2, Olivos 1.

Cool Water 87 – Montano 27, Pablo 14, Espinosa 12, Martin 9, Galulu 9, Valencia 8.

Scoring by quarters: 17-19, 45-44, 68-63, 98-87.

Open

Saipan Fresh Market 102—Pagarao 21, Estolas 15, Rebuyon 14, Gapor 11, Sanciangco 11, Factor 5, Jo. Villacrusis 4, De Guzman 4, Ja. Villacrusis 3, Opone 3.

Diamond Ali'i 97 – Esdrelon 33, Talania 16, Barrios 11, Camacho 7, Artates 6, Guiab 5, Montano 4, Fernandez 4, Barbo 4, Manalo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-25, 47-49, 82-72, 102-97.

25 PLAYERS

From Page 28

ed to join the tryouts were Dan Barcinas, Peter Iguel, Quincy Johnson, Jack Lizama, Jayvan Tarkong, Bill Babauta, Keoni Chariton, Kelvin Fitial, Joemary Tumaquip, Ponce Rasa, Mel Manibusna, Gyles Ruuked, James Lee, James and Joe Villacrusis, Peter Camacho, Ed Diaz, Edsel Mendoza, Taj Van Buren, Robert Naraja, Derrick Augenbaugh. Also on the list are off-island players Jericho Cruz, Ambrose Ogumoro, Tim Quan, and Jeremy Winkfield.

Players joining the tryouts, which will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 6pm to 8pm must meet the residency requirement.

Non-Micronesian athletes can only play for the CNMI if they have lived in the Commonwealth for at least seven straight years. Micronesian players can only suit up for the CNMI Men's Nationals if they have established residency in the Commonwealth for at least three years.

Many-time national coach Rufino Aguon will still call the shots for the CNMI Men's Nationals.

"It's every coach's dream to have a fast, tall, and strong team. However, we don't know yet if we will realize that dream, as the composition of the squad will depend on the availability of players on the island," Aguon said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* last night.

"We just hope to get the best players from the CNMI, players who are willing to do all the hard work," he added.

The CNMI Women's Nationals will have a different selection process with Bill Sewell having a second tour of duty on the team.

Tryouts for the CNMI Women's Nationals will not start until April, as BANMI has scheduled first a skills developmental program to prepare the CNMI cagebelles for the tough games in Palau.

The skills developmental program will begin on Feb. 6 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and only those who will attend at least three hours of the session will be accepted in the tryouts. The same residency requirements apply for players trying out for the CNMI Women's Nationals.

Selection for the CNMI women's cage team is crucial, as the Commonwealth is the defending champion of the Micronesian Games. The CNMI cagebelles defeated Palau in the finals, 48-34.

The champion team was composed of Arcy Morcrief, Beverly Igitol, Chelse Ruluked, Connie Camacho, Dena Ngirichongor, Emi Oiterong, Eva Ito, Lia Rangamar, Nicole Lebria, Pearl Palacios, Tanya Cabrera, and Vanessa Diaz.

The CNMI Men's Nationals placed only fifth behind Guam, Palau, Marshalls, and Kosrae. Members of the team were Augustine Palacios, Barcinas, Freddie Pelisamen, Lee, James Villacrusis, Jeremy Sablan, Winkfield, John Sablan, Fitial, Mark Wallace, and Oscar Ada.

This year's Micronesian Games will run from Aug. 1 to 10.

For more information about the tryouts, contact Aguon at 234-5498 extension 2500 or Rangamar at 664-2502.

HEO

From Page 28

(No. 643), New Zealand's Takuma Ohashi (No. 709), Hong Kong's Kelvin Lam (No. 731), Nw Zealand's Anton Bettnik (No. 739) and David Clifford (No. 796), and Australia's Peter Solway (No. 818).

Heo is the lone player from the Pacific Oceania who made it to the Sunsmart tournament. Aymeric Mara, who plays for New Caledonia, is also in the same event, but is not representing the ITF Pacific Oceania Touring Team.

This will be the second time Heo is competing in the same tournament. Last year, Heo advanced to the quarterfinals of the doubles event and earned 10 ranking points. He teamed up with France's Maxime Chazal. In the singles event of the same meet, the CNMI netter made it only to the Round of 64.

After the tournament in Christchurch, Heo will also play in the Auckland 18 and Under ITF Summer Championships and Tennis Central 18 & U ITF Summer Championships.

The event in Auckland will run from Feb. 1 to 6, while the Tennis Central tournament will take place from Feb. 8 to 13.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	28	13	.683	–
Toronto	23	22	.511	7
New York	17	26	.395	12
Philadelphia	15	28	.349	14
New Jersey	3	40	.070	26

Southeast Division

Atlanta	28	14	.667	–
Orlando	29	15	.659	–
Miami	23	20	.535	5 1/2
Charlotte	21	21	.500	7
Washington	14	29	.326	14 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	34	11	.756	–
Chicago	20	22	.476	12 1/2
Milwaukee	18	24	.429	14 1/2
Detroit	15	28	.349	18
Indiana	15	29	.341	18 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	29	15	.659	–
San Antonio	25	17	.595	3
Houston	24	19	.558	4 1/2
Memphis	23	19	.548	5
New Orleans	23	20	.535	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	29	14	.674	–
Portland	27	18	.600	3
Utah	25	18	.581	4
Oklahoma City	24	20	.545	5 1/2
Minnesota	9	36	.200	21

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	33	11	.750	–
Phoenix	26	19	.578	7 1/2
L.A. Clippers	20	23	.465	12 1/2
Sacramento	15	28	.349	17 1/2
Golden State	13	29	.310	19

Yesterday's Games

L.A. Clippers 92, Washington 78
Dallas 128, New York 78
Toronto 106, L.A. Lakers 105

NBA LEADERS

SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, CLE	45	461	342	1345	29.9
Anthony, DEN	38	384	327	1130	29.7
Durant, OKC	44	427	372	1289	29.3
Bryant, LAL	43	451	263	1219	28.3
Wade, MIA	43	411	298	1162	27.0
Ellis, GOL	41	421	198	1071	26.1
Nowitzki, DAL	42	381	271	1061	25.3
Bosh, TOR	44	367	319	1059	24.1
Roy, POR	40	328	213	924	23.1
Arenas, WAS	32	253	153	722	22.6
Jamison, WAS	33	267	135	719	21.8
Johnson, ATL	42	347	121	887	21.1
Stoudemire, PHX	45	356	227	939	20.9
Randolph, MEM	42	348	176	876	20.9
Maggette, GOL	41	271	298	849	20.7
Evans, SAC	39	296	194	807	20.7
Gay, MEM	40	313	166	825	20.6
Kaman, LAC	38	324	126	774	20.4
Duncan, SAN	39	309	160	778	19.9
Jackson, CHA	42	304	171	837	19.9

FG PERCENTAGE

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	198	311	.637
Gasol, MEM	233	386	.604
Howard, ORL	244	408	.598
Hilario, DEN	230	390	.590
Horford, ATL	244	418	.584
Bynum, LAL	256	457	.560
Landry, HOU	254	455	.558
Lee, NYK	339	610	.556
Millsap, UTA	182	329	.553

REBOUNDS

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	44	164	418	582	13.2
Noah, CHI	41	160	344	504	12.3
Camby, LAC	41	128	357	485	11.8
Lee, NYK	42	101	377	478	11.4
Randolph, MEM	42	189	288	477	11.4
Wallace, CHA	41	84	371	455	11.1
Bosh, TOR	44	129	357	486	11.0
Haywood, WAS	41	174	263	437	10.7
Boozer, UTA	43	83	374	457	10.6
Duncan, SAN	39	121	289	410	10.5

ASSISTS

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, NOR	35	391	11.2
Nash, PHX	45	493	11.0
Rondo, BOS	40	385	9.6
Williams, UTA	39	373	9.6
Kidd, DAL	43	395	9.2
B. Davis, LAC	42	340	8.1
James, CLE	45	355	7.9
Westbrook, OKC	44	323	7.3
Arenas, WAS	32	230	7.2
Duhon, NYK	42	262	6.2

BOB HOPE CLASSIC SCORES

LA QUINTA, California (AP) — Scores Sunday from the Bob Hope Classic, a $5 million US PGA Tour event at four par-72 courses: 6,950-yard p-PGA West Palmer Course; 6,890-yard n-PGA West Nicklaus Course; 7,060-yard q-La Quinta Country Club; 7,403-yard s-SilverRock:

FOURTH ROUND

Alex Prugh	64n-66p-65q-70s—265
Bubba Watson	66q-62s-68p-69n—265
Bill Haas	68q-66s-66p-66n—266
Tim Clark	70n-63p-67q-66s—266
Joe Ogilvie	65p-66n-68s-68q—267
Mike Weir	67p-67n-67s-67q—268
Matt Kuchar	67q-69s-67p-65n—268
Kevin Streelman	70s-71q-63n-64p—268
Martin Flores	66p-65n-65s-72q—268
Ryan Moore	69q-67s-66p-67n—269
Steve Elkington	69p-65n-68s-68q—270
D.J. Trahan	69p-68n-65s-68q—270
Jeff Klauk	66q-72s-67p-65n—270
John Merrick	68q-70s-66p-66n—270
Brandt Snedeker	70p-69n-65s-66q—270
Chad Collins	67p-64n-69s-70q—270
Richard S. Johnson	69n-69p-65q-68s—271
Vaughn Taylor	66n-67p-73q-65s—271
Kevin Na	69p-66n-67s-69q—271
Webb Simpson	67p-72n-66s-66q—271
Matt Jones	69n-67p-69q-66s—271
Ryan Palmer	72s-67q-64n-69p—272
Jason Dufner	72s-67q-64n-69p—272
Garrett Willis	65n-69p-70q-68s—272
George McNeill	65q-72s-65p-70n—272
Kevin Stadler	67s-69q-69n-67p—272
Matt Bettencourt	71n-66p-69q-66s—272
Ben Crane	70q-69s-70p-64n—273
John Senden	68q-69s-68p-68n—273
Carl Pettersson	73n-66p-66q-68s—273
Graham DeLaet	71q-69s-67p-66n—273
Heath Slocum	66p-72n-68s-67q—273
Kevin Sutherland	69n-71p-68q-65s—273
J.P. Hayes	65p-67n-70s-71q—273
Chris DiMarco	72n-67p-66q-68s—273
Paul Goydos	69p-69n-67s-69q—274
Jason Bohn	69s-72q-68n-65p—274
Jeff Overton	68p-68n-69s-69q—274
Charles Howell III	68n-69p-66q-71s—274
Jeff Quinney	64n-74p-69q-67s—274
Brian Gay	71p-65n-70s-68q—274
Derek Lamely	68p-69n-66s-71q—274
Ricky Barnes	67q-72s-67p-69n—275
Roger Tambellini	66q-71s-70p-68n—275
Pat Perez	68s-69q-68n-70p—275
Lee Janzen	69s-70q-66n-70p—275
Brett Quigley	71q-66s-69p-70n—276
Greg Chalmers	70p-69n-68s-69q—276
Michael Bradley	74q-68s-70p-64n—276
Ryuji Imada	67p-71n-68s-70q—276
Henrik Bjornstad	68p-70n-70s-68q—276
Fredrik Jacobson	70n-67p-68q-71s—276
Bo Van Pelt	73s-70q-66n-67p—276
Brendon de Jonge	73n-67p-67q-69s—276
Jamie Lovemark	71q-71s-66p-69n—277
Jerod Turner	69n-69p-71q-68s—277
Bill Lunde	68n-68p-71q-70s—277
Rod Pampling	67q-70s-70p-70n—277
David Toms	70q-70s-67p-70n—277
Troy Merritt	72s-70q-66n-69p—277
Omar Uresti	70n-67p-71q-69s—277
Billy Mayfair	71p-71n-69s-66q—277
Brenden Pappas	68n-70p-70q-70s—278
Michael Sim	73q-67s-69p-69n—278
Harrison Frazar	72q-72s-68p-66n—278
Chris Couch	71s-72q-66n-69p—278
Tom Gillis	68p-66n-72s-72q—278
Chris Wilson	69n-67p-71q-71s—278
Joe Durant	71s-69q-69n-70p—279
Josh Teater	71s-69q-69n-70p—279
Shane Bertsch	62n-69p-77q-71s—279
Brian Davis	73s-70q-69n-67p—279
Bob Estes	68q-72s-68p-71n—279
Greg Owen	74p-65n-70s-70q—279
Failed to qualify	
Justin Rose	70s-67q-69n-74p—280
Rocco Mediate	75s-71q-67n-67p—280
Scott McCarron	67n-71p-67q-75s—280
Jimmy Walker	71s-68q-69n-72p—280
Briny Baird	68p-67n-75s-70q—280
Scott Verplank	70q-74s-67p-69n—280
James Nitties	71s-69q-72n-69p—281
Nicholas Thompson	72n-71p-70q-68s—281
David Duval	74p-65n-73s-69q—281
Blake Adams	74p-68n-69s-70q—281
D.A. Points	70n-71p-70q-70s—281
Jesper Parnevik	68s-69q-74n-70p—281
Justin Bolli	70p-71n-67s-73q—281
Tim Petrovic	67s-75q-70n-69p—281
Jay Williamson	71n-68p-71q-71s—281
Chez Reavie	71q-71s-69p-70n—281
Charley Hoffman	69s-72q-70n-70p—281
Chad Campbell	79s-70q-64n-69p—282
Sam Saunders	74q-67s-71p-70n—282
Rich Beem	71s-74q-68n-69p—282
Cameron Percy	70q-70s-71p-71n—282
Billy Horschel	77s-68q-67n-71p—283
Mathew Goggin	76p-71n-68s-68q—283
Ted Purdy	70n-69p-71q-73s—283
Martin Laird	73n-72p-71q-67s—283
Chris Stroud	71n-68p-76q-69s—284
Kris Blanks	69n-75p-71q-69s—284
Kevin Johnson	76n-75p-65q-68s—284
Johnson Wagner	75q-70s-73p-67n—285
Mark Brooks	70q-71s-73p-71n—285
Matt Every	69q-71s-73p-72n—285
Marc Turnesa	69p-70n-75s-72q—286
Justin Leonard	75s-71q-72n-68p—286
Garth Mulroy	73n-72p-69q-72s—286
Jeff Gove	72p-69n-74s-71q—286
Chris Tidland	72q-72s-69p-73n—286
Alex Cejka	70p-74n-70s-72q—286
Boo Weekley	71p-74n-67s-75q—287
Mark Calcavecchia	71s-77q-68n-71p—287
Daniel Chopra	73q-71s-73p-70n—287
Scott Piercy	76n-71p-72q-69s—288
John Mallinger	74s-76q-68n-70p—288
Cameron Beckman	67q-74s-75p-72n—288
David Lutterus	75s-70q-74n-71p—290
Chris Baryla	71q-78s-72p-70n—291
Steve Lowery	71q-76s-73p-71n—291
Greg Kraft	75s-73q-72n-72p—292
Brad Faxon	70n-73p-79q-71s—293
Rickie Fowler	74s-70q-75n-75p—294
Woody Austin	77s-70q-73n-75p—295
Steve Flesch	71p-78n-71s-76q—296
Craig Stadler	76s-75q-71n-76p—298
Jeff Maggert	76p-67n-70s—WD

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2009 SBA Winter/Spring Budweiser Open 8-Ball League

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of Wild Bills Shark Attack pose with their championship trophies in the Obyan division during the awards banquet for Saipan Billiard Association's Winter/Spring Budweiser Open 8-Ball League on Sunday at Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club.

D'Pirates Huwa players and supporters pose for a group photo after collecting the third place trophy in the Agingan division.

The Docomo/Utopia Hustlers receive their runner-up trophies in the Agingan division.

Jonny's/IT&E Voyagers are all smiles after sweeping the Bud Cup and championship in the Agingan division.

Members of the VFW Sentinel receive the sportsmanship award.

Most improved player Chester Hamoy of IT&E Voyagers.

Wild Bill's Nong Detdon won the MVP plum in the Obyan division.

Docomo Hustlers' Jerry Soriano took the MVP trophy in the Agingan division.

Members of USSP Fotten Palau pose with their runner-up trophy in the Obyan division.

Members of USSP Watever show their third place trophy.

Saints beat Vikings in OT, reach 1st Super Bowl

A 40-yard field goal in overtime by a little-known kicker could become as famous as jambalaya in these parts. 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Turkoglu's 2 free throws lift Raptors over Lakers

Hedo Turkoglu made two free throws with 1.2 seconds left as the Toronto Raptors beat the Los Angeles Lakers 106-105 on Sunday night. 25

4 crowned champs in TENNIS CHALLENGE

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four youth tennis players started the season with a bang, winning in the 2010 Saipan Tennis Challenge played over the weekend at the American Memorial Park and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

Having a strong start in 2010 were Tania Tan, Seung Jae, Carol Lee, and Mikayla Lopez, who ruled their respective divisions in the first tennis tournament of the year on the island.

Tan bested 15 other players to top the Level 1-beginners division. She secured the championship, following a 6-3 triumph over Ami Tsukagoshi.

The newly crowned Tan debuted with a 6-3 win over Gang Min Kim and advanced to the semis after thwarting Gyou Mun Park, 6-0. In the semifinals, Tan was paired against Minju Kim and prevailed, 6-2.

See 4 CROWNED on Page 26

Carol Lee reaches for the ball during her championship game against Kwang Jae in Level 2 division of the 2010 Saipan Tennis Challenge on Sunday at the AMP tennis courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Pete Iguel, seen here dribbling against New Caledonia players during last year's Oceania Basketball Tournament, is one of the 25 players invited to try out for the CNMI Men's Nationals who will play in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau.

25 players invited for Micro Games tryouts

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty-five players have been invited to join the tryouts for the CNMI Men's Nationals who will play in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau.

Basketball Association of Northern Marianas Islands president Elias Rangamar, in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, said BANMI will be sending teams both in the men's and women's competitions of the quadrennial meet thus tryouts will be held to select the Commonwealth' bets to the Games.

Rangamar added that although selection for the CNMI Men's Nationals is by invitation only, interested players are still encouraged to attend a series of tryouts to be held at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium, starting on Jan. 28.

Players who have been invit-

See 25 PLAYERS on Page 26

Ebisuya, Saipan Fresh boost finals bid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pennant champion Ebisuya and Saipan Fresh Mark strengthened their finals bids after surviving the first round of the playoffs in the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League on Sunday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Ebisuya defeated Cool Water, 98-87, in the masters division playoffs, moving a win away from advancing to the finals. Ebisuya will next face the winner of the Wushin Corp.-University of Loyola match with the victor moving into the finals. Wushin and University of Loyola played on Saturday, but the game was rained-out in the first quarter with the former ahead, 27-18.

William Opone led Ebisuya's victory, as his second-half production allowed his team to seize control of the game. Opone, who finished with a team-high 22 points, made eight points in the third period, turning a 44-45 halftime deficit to a 68-65 lead.

Opone added eight more points in the final canto and drew help from four other teammates, who tallied at least two field goals apiece in that quarter to move Ebisuya closer to a championship stint.

Saipan Fresh, which was seeded last in the four-team playoffs, is also a step away from clinching a finals seat after stunning open division pennant

See EBISUYA on Page 26

Saipan Fresh Market's Jun Estolas tries to break away from the defense of Diamond Ali'i's Elmer Esdrelon during their playoff game in the PILCOWA caging at the JP Center Basketball Court on Sunday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Heo joins 55-player draw in New Zealand tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ji Hoon Heo was seeded 14th in the 2010 Sunsmart 18 and Under Canterbury Championships that kicked off yesterday at the Scenic Circle Tennis Centre in Christchurch, New Zealand.

The CNMI bet was among the 44 players given outright entries to the five-day tournament. Joining them are nine qualifiers from New Zealand, Indonesia, Japan, Croatia, and Great Britain.

Heo earned his seeding due to his No. 1,124 ranking in the Junior ITF Circuit. The CNMI bet's first round foe has yet to be announced, as the draw for the tournament was unavailable at the event's website as off press time.

Taipei's Chieh-Fu Wang is

the highest-ranked player in the field at No. 224. Joining Wang in the Top 10 are New Zealand's Jamie Eccleton (No. 267) and Marco Commuzo (No. 326), Thailand's Natasith Luesantia (No. 572), Hong Kong's James Kong

See HEO on Page 26